

Kaddoumi arrives for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi arrived in Amman Monday to hold talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. In statements to the press at Queen Alia International Airport, Mr. Kaddoumi said his talks in Amman will deal with developments in the Arab area, saying such talks were imperative at the present, ahead of an Arab League ministerial conference meeting next month. The Palestinian official underlined the closeness of Palestinian-Jordanian relations, describing the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples as one linked by common interests and cause. He said he was pleased by the suffering of the Iraqi people and called for helping them and their ordeal. He said the recent events in Iraq are an internal Iraqi matter of concern to the Iraqi people. Mr. Kaddoumi was received by Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Omar Al Khatib.

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The body of one victim dangles from a railing surrounded by others following Wednesday's shelling of a crowded Sarajevo street (AFP photo)

Shells slam into Sarajevo, kill at least 37, wound 88

Bosnian leader demands world action or end to arms embargo to allow self-defence

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — At least 37 people were killed and another 88 wounded in Sarajevo when two shells slammed into the centre of the city on Monday, leaving bodies and shattered glass lying in pools of blood.

Morgue officials and doctors at the two main hospitals said the casualty figures could go higher.

One shell landed at the entrance to a busy covered market on a main street and the other near the national theatre a few blocks away. About 10 of the casualties were from the second shell, doctors said.

"Killers, bastards, they all deserve to be slaughtered," screamed a woman covered in blood outside the market a few minutes after the blast.

Bosnian state radio blamed separatist Serb gunners who have laid siege to the city since April 1992 for the attacks.

The Bosnian Serbs accused the Sarajevo government of targeting its own people.

Dead and dying lay sprawled outside the city's covered Trnava market, where the most lethal shell struck. Monday's massacre occurred within 100 metres of the open-air Markale market-place where a shell killed 68 people and wounded 200 others in February 1994.

Bodies were draped where they fell over steel railings separating pedestrians from vehicles on Titova street.

Passers-by helped the wounded into private vehicles and drove them to hospital with horns blaring and lights flashing to clear the way.

"Mommy I've lost my hand, I've lost my hand," said a little girl cradled in the arms of her mother in the back of a reporter's car pressed into service as an ambulance.

United Nations officials had yet to identify the source of artillery fire on government-held Sarajevo, which has been under siege by separatist Serb forces since war in Bosnia erupted more than three years ago.

Bosnian Serb radio also claimed that retaliatory mortar fire from government positions struck at wedding procession in the Serb-held Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza, wounding about 50 people.

Soon after the attack, the Bosnian government suggested it may suspend meetings with American diplomats attempting to reactivate the peace process unless the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) carries out more air strikes against the rebel Serbs.

U.N. officials said air strikes remained a possibility — but not before the origin of the shell was established. Bosnian Television images

showed blood pooling in the marketplace amid about 40 people — many of them children — women and the elderly. Some people's limbs were blown off, one old man's head had split open, his motorcycle still between his legs.

Some bodies literally fell apart as people tried to lift them into cars. Vehicles, horns blaring, sped to hospitals with the wounded.

At Kosovo, the main hospital, the rush of victims was so overwhelming that many people with shrapnel wounds were forced to wait outside. Inside, the more seriously wounded were crowded in halls and patient rooms.

"I could just hear screaming," said Nihada Hadziahmic, describing the first moments after the shell landed. She said she felt something cut into her legs —

(Continued on page 2)

King visits Oman today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday begins an official visit to Oman for talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id on bilateral ties and recent developments in the Arab arena.

During the visit, which was decided in June, King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos will also tackle inter-Arab relations and means of enhancing them.

"The two leaders will discuss developments in the region, bilateral ties and means of improving them," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said. Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shakir will accompany the King.

Mr. Kabariti said that the talks, which will be held in the Omani city of Salalah, will also cover means of activating Arab coordination, achieving Arab solidarity and "overcoming Arab differences in order to be able to deal with the coming era."

The Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, will also be addressed by King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos, Mr. Kabariti said.

The visit comes at a time when Jordan is making strong headway in its efforts to restore relations with Arab Gulf states, with which ties suffered a strain over differences on the Gulf crisis and war.

The most tangible success was registered earlier this month when the Kingdom and Saudi Arabia edged closer towards sealing reconciliation. The process will be crowned by a summit that King Hussein and King Fahd Abdul Aziz will hold "soon" after about five years of estrangement. The encounter will be the first between the two leaders since the Gulf war pushed relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia to their worst level.

Signs of reconciliation with Kuwait also started appearing this month after the defection to the Kingdom of Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, Iraq's former minister of industries and a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein.

The Gulf states said they were happy with Jordan's decision to offer asylum to Gen. Hassan and the Kingdom's criticism of Iraqi policies.

But while the new developments concerning Iraq are believed to have played a role in accelerating the healing of the rift between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the Kingdom and Oman have, despite the different stands they took on the Gulf war, enjoyed what officials describe as excellent relations.

Jordanian and Omani officials have exchanged visits and the two sides have maintained cooperation in political

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Health Minister Aref Batayneh (right) and his Israeli counterpart Ephraim Sneh shake hands after signing an agreement on cooperation at Um Qais on Monday (photo by Yousef Allan)

Crown Prince, Peres review progress on bilateral accords

Agreement signed on cooperation in health, go-head given to drafting of transport accord

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel on Monday signed an agreement on cooperation in health affairs and reviewed progress in negotiations on other similar accords.

The review was held by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at a meeting held in the Jordan Valley. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said various sub-committees

conducting the actual negotiations presented their reports to the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres during the meeting, which was also attended by the Jordanian and Israeli transport ministers, Samir Kassar and Yisrael Kassar.

Petra said Mr. Kassar and Mr. Kassar held an earlier round of talks and reached agreement on finalising an accord on transport. It did not give details.

According to sources who spoke to the Jordan Times prior to the meeting, Israel and Jordan had differed over several issues, including the number, frequency and capacity of flights between Jordan and Israel, whether to have a

joint terminal or two separate terminals at an expanded Aqaba airport to serve both countries, the use of bridges across the River Jordan, and the altitude that the Kingdom's national carrier, could use while flying through Israeli airspace.

The sources, who preferred anonymity, had also expressed hope that the meeting between the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres was an indication that the two sides would reach solutions to the outstanding issues.

It was also expected that the meeting would decide on a date for signing an accord on trade. It was not immediately known whether

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Saddam lashes at U.S. buildup, denies charges

Kuwait hopes for data on missing

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein lashed out at the United States on Monday, accusing the Americans of making false accusations against Iraq in order to move troops into the region.

The Iraqi leader has maintained a relatively low profile since the Aug. 8 defection of two of his daughters and their high-ranking husbands to Jordan.

But following a cabinet meeting on Monday, President Saddam said the United States was waging an anti-Iraq media campaign so it could maintain tough sanctions on Iraq and strengthen its military presence in the Middle East.

"Where is the (U.S.) credibility when it concentrates warships and troops in the Gulf region and the Mediterranean under a false pretext, which alleges that

Iraq intends to invade Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?" he said in a statement.

The Chirac administration said earlier this month that it had detected "unusual" Iraqi troop movements south of Baghdad. In addition one of the Iraqi defectors, Hussein Kamel Hassan, said Iraq had been plotting to invade neighbouring states. The plan was cancelled in the wake of the defections, he said.

President Saddam denied any invasion plans, saying the accusations were "false stands aimed at misleading public opinion."

The Americans believe "that the Iraqis do not understand the depth or the dimensions of this new game," he said.

But, he added, "the Iraqis have shown unity and...the evil aggressors have been disappointed once again."

U.S. troops are conducting

military exercises in Jordan that were planned long before this month's developments, and war games in Kuwait have been moved forward as a precautionary measure.

United Nations sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have contributed to runaway inflation and led to shortages of many items, ranging from medicine to spare parts for cars and industrial machinery.

President Saddam has made a number of conciliatory gestures recently in a bid to get the painful sanctions lifted. The Iraqi economy is based largely on oil exports which are barred under the sanctions.

After years of concealing details of its weapons programme, Iraq has turned over large amounts of information

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Princess Basma heads delegation to Beijing

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday left Amman for Beijing, heading the official and non-governmental delegations which will represent Jordan in the non-governmental forum and meetings of the fourth International Women's Conference which will open in the Chinese capital on Sept. 4.

At the conference, Princess Basma will deliver a speech highlighting Jordan's stand on issues to be discussed at the conference, including the role of women in the society and equality between men and women on the basis of Islamic teachings, the National Charter and the national strategy on women.

Princess Basma will also lead a brief suspension of

Israeli moves threaten expected self-rule deal

Siege of Jericho, order to close Jerusalem institutions cast clouds over peace talks

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — Israel on Monday ordered three Palestinian institutions in Arab East Jerusalem closed and briefly barred a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security chief from joining negotiations in Eilat, casting a shadow over peace moves with the PLO.

Palestinians hurled stones at Israeli soldiers at an army roadblock outside Jericho to protest against the six-day closure of their town.

The Israeli army has kept Jericho sealed since last Wednesday to press demands that Palestinian police hand over militants wanted in two recent bus bombings in Israel. Israel ringed the town with roadblocks, barring anyone from entering or leaving.

In Monday's protest, several dozen demonstrators hurled stones at Israeli soldiers who were enforcing the closure at the Vered Jericho checkpoint at the southern entrance of the desert oasis. Some carried Palestinian flags.

After a few minutes, Palestinian police arrived at the scene and stopped the stone-throwing. Israeli troops called in reinforcements, but did not act against protesters.

The closure of Jericho also led to a brief suspension of

Israeli-PLO autonomy talks in Eilat.

The Palestinian delegation said it would only resume talks once one of its senior negotiators, West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub, won a permit to travel from his headquarters in Jericho to Eilat. Israel defused the crisis and let Mr. Rajoub leave Jericho.

"The continuation of the Israeli closure of Jericho by the Israeli soldiers is becoming a dangerous issue that needs an immediate solution by all levels," said Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We just cannot have negotiations in Eilat and act like nothing is happening while Israel is imposing an unjustified closure in the city," Mr. Rajoub complained of what he said were Israeli strong-arm tactics. "We cannot go on like this, the Israelis are acting like they own Jericho. We cannot live in Jericho under their mercy," Mr. Rajoub told the Associated Press.

Mr. Rajoub's agents have been searching homes in Jericho to try and find militants suspected of involvement in bus bombings on July 24 in Tel Aviv and Aug. 21 in Jerusalem. On Saturday, two

suspects were sentenced by a Jericho military tribunal to seven and 12 years, respectively, for being members of the bombing ring.

Israel says the two men were involved, among other things, in Monday's bombing of a Jerusalem city bus last week in which five people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

In Jerusalem, senior PLO official Faisal Al Hussein said a regional meeting on tourism in Cairo was being suspended over Israel's closure of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

"This process cannot continue or be concluded under this atmosphere which is imposed by Israel and which strengthens the Israeli right-wing," Mr. Hussein said.

Israel and the PLO are close to an agreement expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. The sides last week finished drafting a merged version of the agreement and are due to start tackling remaining points of contention.

But Israeli police on Monday delivered closure orders to what they said were the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), the Palestinian Council of Health

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Kuwait raises prospects for normal ties with Jordan

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — Kuwait on Monday welcomed Jordanian criticism of Iraq, saying a speech by King Hussein last week was an important step towards reestablishing links severed in the 1990 Gulf crisis.

The Kuwaiti cabinet decided the King's speech on Wednesday, in which he criticised the Iraqi government, was "an important step towards reestablishing relations with Kuwait," a government source said.

"King Hussein expressed himself with a frankness different from the past, which calls for an adequate Kuwaiti response," the

source added.

The cabinet particularly welcomed the fact that King Hussein had pressed Iraq to reveal the fate of prisoners captured by Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait between August 1990 and February 1991.

Kuwait cut links with Jordan after the Iraqi invasion because of what was seen as Amman's pro-Baghdad stance during the crisis.

"All that Kuwait wants from countries which supported Iraq is that they put pressure on Baghdad to implement all its commitments to the international community," the govern-

ment source said.

In his speech, King Hussein said Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the former Iraqi industry minister and son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8, had opened his eyes to what was going on in Iraq.

Gen. Hassan said Iraq had planned to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on Aug. 31 this year.

"Since King Hussein started talking with a forthrightness that differs from earlier positions, Kuwait's rapprochement steps should also be forthcoming," said another source

quoted by the Associated Press.

"It's clear that Jordan has begun pursuing this policy. There are some rapprochement steps with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We and Saudi Arabia are on the same side of the issue," the source added.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan have announced the restoration of full diplomatic ties following a five-year hiatus.

The Kuwaiti cabinet meanwhile reiterated its rejection of a proposed visit by Gen. Hassan because he was one of those who planned the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mahdi calls for Sudan dialogue

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's former Premier Sadeq Al Mahdi, released from prison on Saturday, has called for a national conference embracing all groups to try to solve Sudan's political and economic problems.

He also said he supported dialogue with the government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

In an interview with the independent Sudanese daily Akbar Al Yom published on Monday, Dr. Mahdi called for the conference to seek solutions to Sudan's numerous problems, including the war in the south against separatist rebels.

Dr. Mahdi, the leader of Sudan's Umma Party, was released in a military coup in 1989 led by Gen. Bashir and has been detained several times since. He was last detained on May 16 and released with 32 other political prisoners pardoned by Gen. Bashir.

Upon taking power Gen.

Bashir banned all political parties and trade unions and launched what he called Sudan's Islamic experience, hacked by leader of the National Islamic Front, Hassan Al Torabi.

Dr. Mahdi rejected foreign intervention in his country's affairs and said that he was, in principle, for peaceful dialogue with the government.

Oxford-educated Mahdi, 59, also leads the religious Ansar sect, founded by his grandfather to fight against British occupation in the 19th century.

Meanwhile, the United States embassy in Khartoum issued a statement on Sunday welcoming the release of political prisoners and described the move as an encouraging step.

"Taken with President Bashir's announcement of national elections next year, it is an advance towards assuring respect for human rights and a government that will be more responsive to



Sadeq Al Mahdi

the wishes of the people of Sudan," the statement said.

Gen. Bashir announced in a televised speech last Tuesday that presidential and parliamentary elections are due to take place in Sudan next year. But he did not say whether he would run.

Former Prime Minister Mahdi told the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat in an interview published on Sunday that following a meeting of all Sudanese opposition parties in Entebbe in July, he was accused of taking part in a plot to overthrow the government a charge which he denied.

Israel steps up intimidation campaign over Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel ordered three Palestinian organisations in East Jerusalem on Monday to close in a move designed to tighten its grip on the disputed city and condemned by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a violation of their peace accords.

Police handed injunctions to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, the Palestinian Centre of Statistics and the Palestinian Health Council ordering them to "close their doors and stop all activity in Jerusalem" by Friday morning.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat condemned the closure orders. "It totally contravenes past accords," he told reporters from his seat near headquarters in Gaza.

Mr. Arafat's minister for Jerusalem affairs, Faisal Hussein, also denounced the Israeli move as a "violation" of the 1993 Israeli-PLO declaration of principles for autonomy and of international law.

Israeli authorities stopped short, however, of shutting the PLO's de facto headquarters in Jerusalem, the Orient House.

The Jewish state fears that would push the PLO too far

and threaten the peace process at a time when negotiations on the extension of Palestinian autonomy appear to be making headway, government officials said.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who has been campaigning to shut down Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, decided that three organisations were acting against Israeli law because they were linked to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation headed by Radwan Abu Ayash, is based in a press agency which Mr. Abu Ayash ran for five years. The centre of statistics was set up in March 1993.

Mr. Abu Ayash said the closure orders "are part of a long-running policy aimed at wiping out the Palestinian character of Jerusalem and alienating the future of its inhabitants."

Israeli Justice Minister David Libai told Israeli Radio the government was determined to prevent the creation of a parallel Palestinian authority in Jerusalem, which would undermine its authority.

Although Israel pledged in an exchange of letters in 1993 to maintain Palestinian orga-

nisations in East Jerusalem, it passed a law in December 1994 banning any PLO political activity there.

Under the autonomy accords, Israel and the PLO are to begin talks on the future of the city by next May.

Israeli right-wing opposition groups praised the government's move but called for still tougher action.

"The government should have closed these institutions a long time ago. I hope it will not go back on this and instead go to the heart of the matter — to bring an end to the activities of Orient House," said Jerusalem's right-wing mayor, Ehud Olmert.

Hardline Palestinian groups based in Syria pointed out that the Israeli move came as Israel and the PLO signed an accord in Cairo, transferring eight civilian powers to the Palestinians on the West Bank.

This proves that "the partial accords are a political smokescreen for Israel so it can strengthen its occupation of east Jerusalem," a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said.

Palestinians to have own stamps under new accord

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinians will print their own stamps for the first time since the end of the British mandate in 1948 under an agreement signed with Israel here Sunday on the transfer of eight civil powers.

"The design, symbols, wording and subjects of stamps and date stamps issued by the Palestinian side will be in the spirit of peace," the protocol said.

The stamps shall include only the terms "the Palestinian Council" or "the Palestinian Authority," the face value and the subject, the protocol also said.

The two sides put their pens to the accord in Cairo, the first to be signed in a year and the first part of a wider deal for spreading self-rule in the West Bank.

The accord will transfer to the Palestinians by Sept. 10 responsibility for agriculture, insurance, labour, municipal affairs, postal services, petrol and gas, statistics, and trade and industry.

In the petrol and gas section, the protocol specifies that "the colour of all gas cylinders in use by Palestinians in the West Bank shall be different from that in use in Israel and by Israelis."

Also, as a security measure, permits issued by the Palestinians for vehicles transporting gas "shall be governed by the criteria regarding recruitment to the

Palestinian police."

"The issue of such permits is not contingent on the approval of the Israeli side," but the Palestinians must notify Israel of the permits it issues.

Palestinians must also inform Israel "at the earliest opportunity of any suspected theft or unauthorised use of (gas) vehicles."

The Palestinians must notify the Jewish state of any gas production or exploration projects and ensure that they do not damage the environment in Israel, Jewish settlements or Israeli military bases.

"Accordingly, the Palestinian side shall apply the American, British and/or Israeli safety and environmental standards."

In the area of labour, the Palestinians will alert Israel to any Israeli hurt in a work accident so it can launch an investigation along with the Palestinians.

In the commerce and industry sphere, the protocol notes that "the production and use of weapons, ammunition or explosives are dealt with in the Security Annex" to be reached in the full agreement on the second phase of self-rule.

The accord also stipulates that the head office for each of the eight spheres should be located in the Gaza Strip or the self-rule enclave of Jericho in the West Bank.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisian held in possession of marijuana

RABAT (AFP) — Moroccan border guards have arrested a Tunisian national after they discovered 52 kilograms of concentrated marijuana hidden in his car, security services said Sunday. Fathi Ben Mohammed Khoumssi, 38, was subjected to a customs check in the Moroccan port of Tanger just before he embarked on a vessel bound for Algeria in southern Spain. The marijuana was found under the car's wings. In a separate incident, police also arrested a Moroccan national at Hoon in Holland as he tried to smuggle 11 kilograms of marijuana in the bodywork of his car out of the country.

Arsonists attack Scottish church in Israel

TIBERIAS (AFP) — Arsonists attacked a Scottish Presbyterian church at Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, causing serious damage on Sunday, the church authorities said. Unidentified attackers set fire to the church piano, smashed the crucifix on a wall and also damaged curtains, they said. Colin Morton, head of the Scottish Presbyterian Church in the Holy Land, said, "I am deeply distressed by the desecration of the church which has been in Tiberias for more than a hundred years serving pilgrims and visitors."

Kuwait names square after United Nations

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait on Sunday named a square here after the United Nations in tribute to its role in freeing the country from Iraqi occupation, the state-run news agency KUNA reported Sunday. The flags of Kuwait and the U.N. were raised on the square, previously known as Al Izam roundabout, at a ceremony attended by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and his counterpart from the Ivory Coast, Amar Essy, the current chairman of the U.N. General Assembly. Sheikh Sabah said the decision, taken in celebration of the U.N.'s 50th anniversary, reflected his country's appreciation of "the important and special role played by the U.N. in freeing Kuwait from the claws of Iraqi occupation." The U.N., "deserves all our backing, as it faces numerous international issues and problems," he added. The U.N. approved the use of force by the U.S.-led multinational coalition which ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991, ending a seven-month occupation.

Russia opens office in Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Russia on Monday became the 10th country to open a representation office in the Palestinian self-rule area since they were established in May 1994, officials said. Alexis Gostikov, who will run the bureau in Gaza City, presented his credentials to Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority. Palestinian officials said. The other countries to have established offices since Israel agreed to give the Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho are: Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Holland, Jordan, Morocco, Norway, South Africa and Tunisia.

Pakistani army chief visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Pakistani army chief General Abdul Wahid Kakkar arrived in Iran on Monday for a one-day visit to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. Gen. Kakkar, who was greeted at the airport by the commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, General Mohsen Rezaei, is to explore ways of helping Bosnian Muslims against Serb attacks, it said. "Muslim countries should find a solution to help Bosnia's innocent people" if U.N. peacekeepers choose to leave there, he told reporters. Pakistan itself has about 3,000 troops serving under U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. Gen. Kakkar is the second senior military officer from a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group on Bosnia to visit Iran since the OIC decided last month to reject the U.N.-imposed arms embargo on Bosnia.

Iranian punished for marrying 12 women

TEHRAN (AFP) — A man convicted of fooling 14 unsuspecting women into marrying him and cheating them out of their money was sentenced to jail and 74 lashes of the whip, a newspaper reported Monday.

His sentence came after his disgruntled wives had already exacted their own punishment, holding him captive in a basement without food or water for two days before handing him over to the police, the daily Iran said.

The man, named only as Hussein, 35, introduced himself alternatively as a doctor, engineer or businessman to rich widows and "charmed them with his smooth talking" into marrying him and giving him large sums of cash, it said.

His luck changed, however, after a long absence from his home with his fourth wife, Maryam, when she determinedly set out to find her husband and "looked everywhere" to no avail.

Only when Maryam had a photograph of Hussein published in a large-circulation newspaper, did his other wives start to call from "all over the country."

After a five-hour meeting at Maryam's house, the 14 decided to give their "boxer of a husband a real lesson" before turning him over to the police.

The women waited for Hussein in the house of his eighth wife, Fariba, and when he showed up they caught him and locked him inside the basement for two days "without food and water."

Shells kill 37 in Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

where she was hit by shrapnel — and bobbed into a doorway before being brought to the hospital.

A policeman said he had tried to disperse the crowd minutes before the shell hit. Gatherings at the market place have been prohibited for more than a year to prevent just such a repeat of the February 1994 bloodbath.

Police and medical teams continued to pull out victims from destroyed buildings hours after the five shells landed Monday in the city, according to the Bosnian Interior Ministry.

A U.S. team, led by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, was headed for Paris on Monday to reopen talks with envoys of other countries involved in the peace process and with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

But Mr. Silajdzic, reacting with fury to the shelling, said his side would suggest "a suspension of the peace process" — apparently until the Bosnians got a commitment that NATO would attack in retaliation.

"We would like to know what the role of NATO is in all of this," he said. "Are they going to stand by while we are being killed and massacred? Is Sarajevo a safe zone or a killing ghetto?"

NATO, in tandem with the United Nations, has promised more vigorous air strikes for all U.N. "safe areas," among them Sarajevo following brutal Serb conquests of two other "safe areas" Srebrenica and Zepa.

"The government went into an emergency session after the attack. There, Mr. Silajdzic berated NATO countries, blaming them for world opposition to expelling his army from a U.N. arms embargo on all warring factions."

"They do not let us defend ourselves and are responsible therefore for defending the citizens of Sarajevo," he said.

Even before the shell landed, the commander of Bosnian government forces was sceptical about the chances of the new U.S. peace initiative.

General Rasim Delic said they amounted to little more

Lebanon museum gets new facade

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's war-wrecked national museum is on its way to full recovery after workers finished rebuilding its facade, Culture Minister Michel Edde said on Monday. A ceremony to inaugurate the new facade is set to be held next month and it will be followed by work to spruce up the interior of the museum, rehabilitate displays and dig up ancient objects which had been stored or hidden, Mr. Edde said. Rebuilding the facade took seven months and cost around \$650,000. The work involved patching up gaps and holes in the stone facade, which served as target practice and a shooting range for the warring parties in Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. Mr. Edde said contacts were underway with the Louvre museum in Paris as well as the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to rehabilitate the interior of the museum but he did not set a date for the full reopening of the museum. A plethora of archaeological objects spanning several civilisations which are being dug out from the war-devastated city centre of Beirut ahead of its multi-billion dollar reconstruction will be displayed in the museum.

Lebanon museum gets new facade

than a collection of ideas "without a head and without a tail."

According to published reports, the U.S. plan may include a proposal to swap Gorazde, the last government-held enclave in eastern Bosnia, for land around Sarajevo. However, the Bosnian government has rejected the idea.

Like earlier plans, the U.S. initiative includes splitting Bosnian territory, with 51 per cent going to the Sarajevo government and its Croat allies, and 49 per cent remaining with the Bosnian Serbs.

Croatia earlier this month recaptured most of its territory that had been held by rebel Serbs since a 1991 rebellion. Only a small piece of land along the Danube River boundary with Serbia remains in the hands of the rebels.

The 1994 marketplace attack led to a NATO ultimatum to the Serbs to pull back heavy weapons from the immediate vicinity of the Bosnian capital or face air strikes.

Both sides respected the 20-kilometre heavy weapons "exclusion zone" for about a year, then increasingly began to violate it. In May this year, the United Nations gave up trying to enforce it and called down NATO air strikes on the Serbs.

Those air strikes resulted in the Bosnian war's deadliest

Egyptian rival militant groups unite -- minister

CAIRO (Agencies) — The two main armed Muslim militant groups in Egypt, Jihad and the Gamaa Al Islamiyah, have decided to unite their forces for the first time since 1983 at the request of Sudan, a government minister has said.

Interior Minister General Hassan Al Afifi, in an interview published Monday in the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat, said the two had decided to unify their command after meeting Sudan's spiritual leader Hassan Al Turabi.

General Al Afifi said both sides met Dr. Turabi at the start of April in Khartoum during an Arab and Islamic conference, which gathered together Muslim fundamentalists from all over the world.

"Dr. Turabi asked them to abandon their differences and cooperate after the hard knocks they suffered in Egypt," he said.

Egypt has accused the hardline Islamic government in Khartoum of being involved in a failed attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26.

Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed responsibility for the assassination attempt. Jihad killed Mr. Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, in October 1981.

More than 850 people have died in Egypt since Muslim militants began a violent campaign to bring down the government in March 1992.

Gen. Al Afifi said militants apprehended by police have given accounts of the role played by Dr. Turabi, believed to be the power behind Sudan's Islamic government, in coordinating between the two groups.

Gen. Al Afifi's remarks are the latest Egyptian claims that Sudan is supporting Islamic militants trying to overthrow Egypt's secular government.

The allegations heightened after June 26 assassination attempt on Mr. Mubarak when Egypt said the would-be assassins were guided Dr.

Tourabi. Sudan has denied those charges.

The relationship between the Gamaa and Jihad is not clear, but they are believed to have differences over ideology and methods. Both are accused of taking part in the three-year campaign by radicals to impose strict Islamic rule in Egypt.

Gen. Al Afifi said Egypt had evidence of communication between leaders of the two groups, Ayman Al Zawahry of Jihad, who has political asylum in Denmark, and Gamaa's Mustafa Hamza, who is believed to be in Sudan.

Egypt also accuses Mr. Hamza on playing a role in organising the attack on Mr. Mubarak in Ethiopia.

Police have arrested 16 suspected extremists who were planning assassinations and robberies in six governorates, a newspaper reported Monday.

The Al Ahram daily said 10 other militants suspected in the alleged plot were still at large.

"They were planning destructive attacks on vital buildings, assassinations of politicians and security leaders, and robberies on jewelry shops and churches in six governorates," Al Ahram said.

In Minya, in southern Egypt police shot dead three Muslim militants in separate raids on Monday, police said.

Two unidentified members of Gamaa Al Islamiyah group were killed near the village of Eidwa, 230 kilometres south of Cairo, when police raided their hideout in a field.

Police said they uncovered in their shack a pistol and plans for attacks on political figures.

A third militant was killed in a separate raid further south in the province of Assiut.

Hussam Fatbi Abdo Salem, 25, was surrounded by police as he hid in a cemetery in Badari village, General Magdi Bassuni, Assiut security chief, told the news agency MENA.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7731119

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00 Road to Avonlea
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30 Monty Python
17:50 Tarantula
19:00 News in French
19:15 Faut Pas Rever
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Questions of Choice
20:00 Pilot Files
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 True Blue
22:00 News in English
22:30 Trade Winds
23:00 New York Undercover
23:59 Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

06:42 Fajr
06:52 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37 Asr
16:13 Maghreb
19:10 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824323
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to drop becoming around average with winds westerly active. In Amman, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. 21/23
Amman 27/41
Aqaba 27/41

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts

Deserts 1936
Jordan Valley 26/40

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 37, Aqaba 43. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Belbeisi 663412
Dr. Mazen Shawkat 830435
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685
Dr. Bassam Karadsch 759200
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asma pharmacy 676555
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Nairook pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hlu 279773
Aqaba pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawel 989601
Khalif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774101
Jordan Electricity Authority 680100

REPAIRS

Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 644412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciani 664171/4
Shmiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 661271/1
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 660100
Amal Hospital 661155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)963323
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)963323
Al-Hikmah Hospital (09)963323
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727755
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00 Muscat (RJ)
05:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
05:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
05:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:00 London (RJ)
06:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
05:00 Cairo (MS)
05:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
05:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
05:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:00 London (RJ)
06:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
06:50 Amman (RJ)
07:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
07:20 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
07:30 Paris (RJ)
07:40 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
07:50 Toronto (RJ)
08:00 London (RJ)
08:10 Madrid (RJ)
08:20 Athens (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
08:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:40 Beirut (ME)
06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:00 Vienna (OS)
07:10 Khartoum (SD)
07:20 Abu Dhabi (GF)
07:30 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
07:40 Damascus (AZ)
07:50 Riyadh (SV)
08:00 Aden (DY)
08:10 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

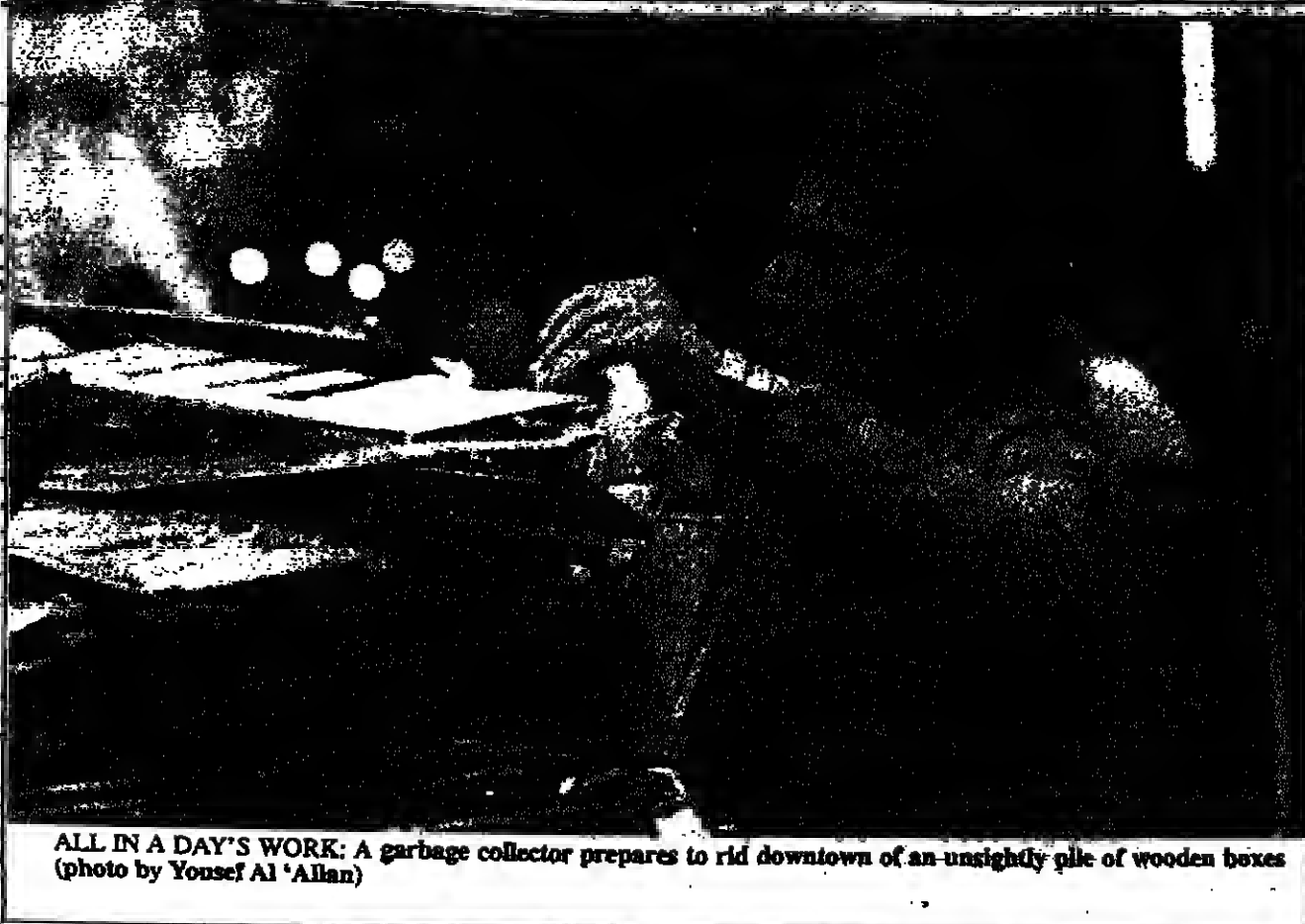
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Cabbage 130/180
Carrot 300/200
Cauliflower 280/180
Cucumbers (large) 150/180
Cucumbers (small) 200/200
Eggplant 200/130
Figs 350/250
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 800/600
Lemon (yellow) 500/450
Lemon (green) 550/500
Marrow (large) 200/120
Marrow (small) 180/180
Mushrooms 350/280
Okra 180/180

insj

SHEFFIELD (R) international Dav scored his first goal on Sunday at the United beat Wednesday 2-0 away. The top of the league.

Gnole's shot fired the box and in post out of reach goalkeeper Kevin Phillips. England veteran Beardsley, voted match, scored his

North-South (N) 1-0
South (S) 1-0
West (W) 1-0
East (E) 1-0
Total 4-0



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: A garbage collector prepares to rid downtown of an unsightly pile of wooden boxes (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Beijing conference good opportunity for Jordan to state its stand on equality — Damen-Masri

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri Monday said Jordan's participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women which will be held in Beijing Sept. 4-15 will be a good opportunity for the Kingdom to illuminate its policies and stands on human rights and equality between men and women on the basis of the Islamic sharia, the constitution and the National Charter.

Chairing a meeting of the Ministry of Social Development's planning, coordination and administrative development committee, Ms. Damen-Masri said Jordan's representation at the conference by various public and private sector representatives

and women leaders, mainly by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, was a clear indicator of the Kingdom's faith in the major role of women in developing the society and in shaping its future.

She said the Jordanian leadership was keen to instill the spirit of equality among all citizens and to grant equal opportunities to all, saying the only differences between them stem from what they offer to their



Salwa Damen-Masri

society and its development. This, she continued, was clearly stated in the National Strategy on Women, which paves the way for women to carry out their role as partners in developing the society and raising living standards.

The minister referred to her participation in the fourth ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which will be held in Beijing Sept. 1-2, saying the conference will focus on the role of women in devel-

opment. She said she will chair the coordination meeting of the Arab delegations participating in the meeting aimed at unifying Arab stands on issues to be discussed at the conference.

She said she will also chair a scientific seminar which will be organized by the U.N. on pioneering and small income-generating projects in the Arab World to be also held in Beijing in the same period.

The ministry's committee reviewed its meeting resolutions adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs which convened at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo last year and means of following up the implementation of these resolutions.

Investigation reveals serious mishandling of RJ funds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A parliamentary committee charged with studying the performance and general situation of Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines has summed up its investigations revealing a number of shortcomings, violations of rules and mishandling of funds that have resulted in large financial losses over the years.

While recognising efforts of RJ officials to promote the airline's services, the committee also points to airline mismanagement and mishandling of plans, violations of rules and regulations and the persistent disregard of advice by specialists and controllers, the report, which was published in Ad-Dustour daily Sunday, said.

In light of the enormous data and information compiled on RJ after more than a year of investigations, the committee members said they were surprised at the deterioration in the airline's financial situation, despite the airline having witnessed several management changes over the past years, the report stated.

The committee, first chaired by deputy Aref Batayneh and later by deputy Munir Sobar, cited the following prominent flaws in RJ's performance: the existence of violations in legislations and regulations at all levels; negligence in financial matters, in management and in decision-making that was largely moti-

vated by personal interests and nepotism.

The report stated that this conclusion was based on reports by the Audit Bureau, the Finance Ministry and annual reports from RJ.

In its scrutiny of RJ's financial situation, the committee noted that the national airline had incurred repeated losses since 1983 with the exception of the years 1985, 1987 and 1989 when RJ made net profits ranging between JD 1.4 million to JD 1.96 million.

Losses since 1983 ranged from JD 9.7 million in 1984 to JD 34.4 million in 1992, according to the report which also revealed that accumulated foreign and domestic debts amounted to JD 323.9 million towards the end of 1993.

RJ's overall investments amounted to JD 11.8 million by the end of 1993 but these yielded negative results, ending up in investment losses in Arab Wings, and Alia Gateway Hotel, the report noted.

The hotel, which incurred JD 949,000 and JD 729,000 losses in 1990 and 1991 respectively and whose assets were estimated at JD 8.2 million, was sold in 1993, just as it started to make profits, the report added.

From RJ's annual reports it is clear that the airline has regrettably resorted to borrowing on unfavourable terms which has subsequently led to the accumulation of more debt burdens, and to the sale of aircraft to raise

funds for payment of interest on loans, the committee's report stated.

As an example, the report said, RJ sold all five of its aircraft in 1988 for JD 165 million to raise funds to hire the same five aircraft on a long-term basis ending in 1998. Hiring the aircraft for JD 165 million aggravated the debt situation, the report said.

The report disclosed a payment of JD 30 million made by RJ from the sale of the aircraft to settle part of its debts.

Instead, the report continued, the airline should have relied on its operations and profits to pay its dues or should have sought to increase its capital.

The report pointed out that RJ management raised employee salaries in disregard of recommendations to the contrary. The increase in salaries in 1993, the report added, resulted in RJ paying its employees a total of JD 3,754,949 in salaries annually, of which JD 1,167,282 is paid in U.S. dollars.

RJ enjoys exemptions from income tax and fees for using airports and terminal buildings, as well as exemption from landing fees and facilities in the purchase of aircraft fuel at very low prices, the report stated as a reminder.

The report also noted that the airline had been granting travel agents large commissions as incentives under no specific regulations, while rates of discounts on ticket sales did not follow the airline's set of rules.

According to the report, RJ management also committed violations of rules on purchases of computer equipment as well as aircraft spare parts at exorbitant costs, citing two specific cases in which RJ arranged for the purchase of spare parts for Boeing airplanes from the U.S. in 1989 and 1993.

RJ has also been operating on routes that were economically unfeasible, the report said.

The committee recommended that RJ control its expenditure by transferring surplus personnel to other government departments; halt plans of opening additional offices abroad; cease operations on unprofitable routes; close unprofitable investments; end purchase of high cost simulators for training; convert the airline into a public company with the government holding 51 per cent equity and study plans for commercialising airline operations.

The committee, which will soon submit its report to the Lower House of Parliament, said it held 13 sessions, summoned several RJ serving and former officials and consulted with air transport specialists, economists, former and serving cabinet ministers and enlisted the assistance of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Audit Bureau and other departments in the course of its investigation into the situation of the national airline.

Canada sees MENA summit beneficial for future trade ties with Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — Canada views the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference as an important development in the region as well as for Canadian-Jordanian trade and future economic relations, Canada's ambassador to Jordan Michel de Salaberry said Monday.

Canada is sending a high-powered trade delegation to Jordan and the Middle East in advance of the MENA October conference, said the ambassador at a roundtable meeting attended by Jordanian businessmen.

Organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) in cooperation with and support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the meeting reviewed the role of the Jordanian private sector in ensuring the success of the economic conference.

The ambassador called on Canadian businessmen to participate actively in the upcoming conference and said the meeting is important as an arena for exchanges of views and discussions of investment prospects from which Jordanian and Canadian sectors are bound to benefit.

Jordan and Canada maintain strong trade and economic ties, the ambassador said, and Canada hopes that such cooperation will continue as Jordan has acquired a central geographical location in the Middle East region and now offers attractive facilities for investments.

Addressing the roundtable meeting was Shabab Ammani, rapporteur to an executive committee acting for the private sector, who



Jordanian businessmen Monday attend a meeting on the role of the private sector in the October economic conference (Petra photo)

said the meeting was part of ongoing preparations for the MENA conference. The Jordanian private sector, Dr. Ammani said, is capable of confronting various challenges and major economic developments and has proved its potential over the past few years in playing a key role in enhancing the national economy.

Nadim Muasher, member of the private sector's executive committee, presented a report on efforts made for highlighting Jordan as an area eligible for investments.

Nancy George, a CIDA representative at the meeting, underlined the importance of technical and vocational training for economic development, saying that community colleges can supply the local market with skilled workers for the country's industry.

China workers' delegation meets here for labour talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation from the Federation of Workers in China met in Amman Monday with Minister of Labour Nader Abu Sha'ar and members of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) to discuss common grounds in labour-related fields.

Dr. Abu Sha'ar briefed the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Yang Ching Fu on the main features of the new labour law in Jordan.

The minister said the new law seeks to achieve a balanced relationship between employers and workers with emphasis on equal rights and that the new law will soon be officially ratified.

The Chinese visitors met also Monday with FJLU Vice President Mazen Ma'ayta who spoke about workers' achievements and

the federation's role in promoting the workers' movement in the Kingdom.

Mr. Ma'ayta said Jordanian workers look forward to the advantages that should accompany the peace era and attach great hopes on the implementation of regional projects through the Middle East and North Africa Conference.

Mr. Ma'ayta also called for increased cooperation with the Chinese federation of workers and the exchange of expertise as well as the organisation of training courses.

The Chinese delegation, having arrived in Amman Sunday on a several-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the FJLU, will make field trips to a number of industrial institutions.

Syrian trade delegation to head to Amman for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Syrian economic delegation headed by President of the Federation of the Syrian Chambers of Commerce Rafe' Shallah will visit Jordan Sept. 20 at an invitation by the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

President of the Jordanian Federation Haidar Murad, who is also president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, said representatives of the two federations will hold an extensive meeting for talks on various scopes of cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries and to study means of enhancing joint cooperation and increasing trade volume between Jordan and Syria.

Commenting the special relations between the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Syrian federation, Mr. Murad said the Amman chamber has helped find solutions to impediments facing the transit of Syrian goods to Arab Gulf countries through Jordan.

He added that this contributed to further enhancing economic relations between the two countries. During its visit, Mr. Murad said, the Syrian delegation will attend the Arab investments and food security conference which will convene in Amman Sept. 21 with a fair to be held on the sidelines of the conference.

He voiced hope that the Jordanian-Syrian talks would help encourage economic and trade ties and would lead to launching joint ventures in order to achieve economic integration between the two countries.

He stressed that the Jordanian and Syrian private sectors have the expertise and potential to increase trade exchange and bolster industrial cooperation.

Mr. Murad said the balance of trade between the two countries was currently in favour of Syria and noted that Jordanian officials and representatives of the private sector should work on increasing the Kingdom's exports to Syria.

He said Jordan's exports to its northern Arab neighbour in 1992 stood at JD 12.9 million, rising in 1993 to JD 19 million and in 1994 to JD 26.7 million. He said Jordanian imports from Syria in 1992 stood at JD 31.21 million, in 1993 at JD 32.6 million and JD 48 million in 1994.

In the first half of this year, Jordan's exports to Syria totalled JD 15.9 million while its imports from Syria totalled JD 227 million, Mr. Murad said.

Jordan imports meat, agricultural produce, cotton, carpets, garments, electric heaters and home appliances from Syria, and to Syria it exports white cement, pharmaceutical products, chemicals, paper, threads, pipes and iron bars.

Travel agents to organise full package tours to Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism on Monday instructed travel agents to organise well-planned tours to Israel instead of only working on securing visas for Jordanian citizens wishing to visit the Jewish state.

In a meeting between Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Akram Masarweh and the president and members

of the administrative committee of the Jordanian Travel Agents Society the ministry called for having such tours include in addition to the visas, the hotel stay and transportation.

Mr. Masarweh discussed with the tour agents issues related to tour programmes operated by them to serve Jordanian citizens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Slovak President

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sent a cable to Slovak President Michal Kovac, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Slovakia's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Kovac continued good health and happiness and the Slovak people further progress and prosperity.

Premier announces death of former minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday announced the death of former minister Hassan Kayed who passed away Sunday at the age of 77. The deceased, who was born in Jerash governorate in 1918, served as head of the court of cassation, under-secretary of the ministries of education and justice, minister of education and interior and member of the Upper House of Parliament. He will be laid to rest in his hometown of Jerash Tuesday after noon prayers.

Prince Mohammed visits army division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, on Monday visited the Third Royal Armoured Division, where he was received by the division's commander and senior officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed by the commander on duties assigned to the division and its training activities.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

LECTURE

*3D Experiments in Sculpture' by Usama Khalidi at 6.00 pm

EXHIBITIONS

* Works of graphic art by several artists. *Photography show 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hodeib.

*Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi.

*Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamet.

*Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali.

*3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi.

EXHIBITIONS

*Abstract art by the late artist Adnan Hilu at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Pioneers of the Fifties Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uttheina.

FILM

*The Iron Gate' (Arabic) at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7.30 pm

NEWS

* McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Centre at 5.00 pm.

Northern Ireland Protestant leader quits on IRA truce

BELFAST (R) — James Molyneux, symbol of Protestant determination to keep Northern Ireland British, announced Monday that he was stepping down after 16 years as leader of the mainstream Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).

His unexpected announcement came the week that Northern Ireland marked the first anniversary of an IRA guerrilla ceasefire that brought the province to a crossroads after a 25-year guerrilla war that killed 3,200.

It closed a chapter of politics in Northern Ireland in which Mr. Molyneux led a dogmatic campaign under the popular banner of "Ulster says no" to what he saw as covert British attempts to nudge the province towards reunification with Ireland.

Mr. Molyneux said that he was standing down so that the UUP, which has nine seats in Britain's House of Commons, could find a successor to fight the next gen-

eral elections which have to be held by May 1997.

British Prime Minister John Major commands a single digit parliamentary majority and commentators say he may call an election early if he can rally support for his Conservative Party in the face of a challenge from opposition Labour.

"Yesterday on my 75th birthday I decided to resign the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party to make way for a successor to prepare the party for the general election which, because of the present parliamentary arithmetic, could come earlier than would have appeared six months ago," Mr. Molyneux said.

Ken Maginnis, a no-nonsense legislator and security spokesman for the UUP, was thought to be a front-runner to succeed Mr. Molyneux and carry the torch of opposition to closer ties with Ireland in the British parliament.

Mr. Molyneux's lead-

ership has been under pressure for the past year, since Britain and the Dublin government launched a joint peace plan for Northern Ireland which Unionists said was a sell-out of their treasured links with London.

Mr. Molyneux fought off the first challenge to his leadership earlier this year but his stature was badly dented when his 22-year-old rival secured about 15 per cent support.

He resolutely opposed any talks with Sinn Féin, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas who fought British rule of Northern Ireland for 25 years.

Efforts to secure a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland are at a crossroads because of a row between Britain and its partners in the peace process over decommissioning IRA and Protestant loyalist guerrilla guns.

British Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram

Monday rejected anew calls by former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds to stop insisting that the IRA surrender its arms before being invited to all-party talks.

Mr. Reynolds, co-author of the Anglo-Irish Downing Street Northern Ireland peace blueprint, said at the weekend that the surrender of IRA and loyalist arms should be agreed as part of a final settlement, not as a pre-condition for talks.

But Mr. Ancram said: "The concept that you don't resolve the decommissioning issue until you have a final settlement to be implemented would mean that all negotiations would have to take place under the shadow of the gun."

"Quite apart from the unacceptability of that in democratic terms, you would not get other parties around the table to negotiate on that basis, so I don't think it is really a substantial or real way forward," he told the BBC.

N. Korea links future repatriation of MIA remains to peace treaty

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea, already seeking \$3.5 million in compensation for recent returns of MIA remains, has linked future repatriations to a peace treaty with the United States, officials said Monday.

It is among the latest moves in a long-running campaign by the Communist North — which has been intensifying in recent months — to force direct talks with Washington that would snub South Korea.

The stance also puts the North at loggerheads with U.S. officials, who have insisted that progress in the issue of soldiers listed as missing in action, or MIA, from the Korean War is needed to pave the way for the improved bilateral relations that the North has sought.

"The remains issue is now stalled because they have tied it to a peace treaty with the United States," said Jim Coles, a U.S. and U.N. military spokesman, citing a recent report by the North's official media.

"That's an issue that's going to have to be explored through diplomatic channels," Mr. Coles said. "Our concern is for the humanitarian situation."

Of the 54,246 Americans

who lost their lives in the bloody 1950-53 Korean War, 8,166 are still listed as missing, although the total includes 866 bodies that were returned in 1954 but never identified before being buried.

An armistice ended the war, in which the United States led a 16-nation U.N. force that repelled a North Korean invasion of the South.

But no peace treaty was ever signed. Washington has insisted it must be negotiated between the two Koreas. The North considers its capitalist rival a U.S. puppet and has tried a variety of manoeuvres to prove the armistice doesn't work.

It recently ousted military observers from Poland and Czechoslovakia who had monitored the North's side of the demilitarised zone, along the world's most heavily guarded border.

U.S. and South Korea officials also have expressed concerns about the possibility of a North Korean military incursion as further pressure.

The MIA issue is a sensitive one, and both U.S. and U.N. officials choose their words carefully to avoid upsetting the progress that has been made in recent years.

The U.N. also is seeking the remains of Britons, Turks, Filipinos and Colombians.

"We want to give the North Koreans credit for what they have been doing," Mr. Coles said. "So far, they have been making a good-faith effort."

The North has sought \$3.5 million, which it claims is compensation for expenses it incurred for 148 sets of remains recovered in 1993 and 14 on Sept. 13, 1994, the date of the last repatriation.

A Defence Department source told the Associated Press last year that a payment of \$897,000 was made two years ago for the remains of 46 American and other U.N. soldiers in 1990, 1991 and 1992. The 1990 repatriation was the first since 1954.

The general rule of thumb for reimbursement is about \$2,000 for each claim, but Mr. Coles insisted: "We do not pay a set amount for verified claims. We're not in the business of buying bones by the box. We're in the business of recovering the remains of our war dead."

Mr. Coles said the U.N. command has been pressing the North to allow a technical team, including forensic experts, to assist in excavations. He said it is critical to the identification process.

Bangladesh police, Ershad supporters clash; 30 hurt

DHAKA (AFP) — Some 30 people were injured Monday in clashes between police and supporters of deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as a Bangladesh court postponed for 11 days the hearing of murder charges against him.

Witnesses said police used batons and fired tear-gas to disperse supporters of the opposition Jatiya Party (JP), who were demanding withdrawal of murder charges against Ershad and his release.

Several hundred JP supporters demonstrated at the high-security Dhaka Central Jail as Ershad was taken from the jail to the nearby court.

Only local journalists with special passes were allowed into the court, while an AFP photographer was prevented by police from photographing the former president.

Meanwhile, seven people were killed and more than 100 injured when police opened fire on demonstrators in the northern Bangladesh town of Dinajpur protesting the death in police hands of a 14-year-old girl, it was reported Monday.

The demonstrators stormed a police barracks after the body of the girl was found by the roadside early Sunday.

Police claim she had been given a lift in one of their trucks and fell to her death but local residents allege police raped and killed her and then dumped the body.

News of her death provoked a furious response among local residents. Armed with sticks and stones, they stormed the local police barracks. Police opened fire and buried tear gas at demonstrators, killing seven people, the mass circulation daily Ittefaq newspaper reported.

Yeltsin's envoy tours ruins of Grozny

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special representative for Chechnya toured the ruins of the Chechen capital 'Grozny Monday ahead of a crucial Kremlin meeting on the separatist republic.

Oleg Lobov, named to the post last week, said he would use his one-day visit as a basis for his recommendation on policy in Chechnya to the Kremlin Security Council when it meets Wednesday.

"Today I arrived to see for myself on the scene and study what suggestions to make to the security council," Mr. Lobov said on arrival of Grozny's Russian military airport.

At the same time, the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya General Anatoly Romanov, ordered tougher security measures, including a ban on possession of arms and tighter restrictions on the movement of people between towns in the republic, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Mr. Lobov gave few hints about what he would be telling the powerful inner circle of Mr. Yeltsin's ministers and advisers.

He did however say that he was not satisfied with the implementation of a recent demilitarisation accord between Chechen independence fighters and the Russian forces.

Under the accord, the rebels are to disarm and nearly all Russian troops are to withdraw from the Caucasus republic.

But the agreement has been marred by several incidents of fighting, as Russians accuse the Chechens of not being serious about handing weapons, the Chechens accuse the Russians of failing to withdraw any troops.

Mr. Lobov's spokesman, Valery Kadzhaya, told AFP that the main point of Mr. Lobov's visit was to get a first-hand view of the situation in the republic, which has been torn apart by eight months of war.

"He's going to meet the people, see the state of things, see it with his own eyes," Mr. Kadzhaya said.

Mr. Lobov began his visit by meeting the heads of the Russian-installed government in Chechnya, Salama-byek Khadzhiyev and Umar Avturkhanov, and with General Romanov.

Meetings were also planned with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is mediating the Chechnya peace talks, and Russian soldiers stationed in the rubble of Grozny.

There were no meetings scheduled with representatives of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared independence from the Russian Federation in 1991 and has been battling Russian forces since December.

"That's unlikely," Mr. Kadzhaya said when asked if any such meetings were planned.

Mr. Lobov's tour of Grozny started at the Republican

Hospital, where work is only just finishing to repair the damage caused in the fighting for Grozny between December and March.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said Sunday that rebuilding the city of about 450,000 people will cost between \$2.3 and \$2.7 billion and take years.

Another major Grozny hospital was flattened in the Russian bombing and shelling, as were entire neighbourhoods of hundreds of apartment buildings, houses, shops and bridges.

Chechen doctors in the Republican Hospital said Mr. Lobov was not on their side.

"He's an idiot. He could help if he wanted, but I'm not sure he will. I don't believe that their rockets won't be hitting our hospital all over again," said 47-year-old doctor Sima Ibriva.

So far, the peace talks have concentrated on trying to stop the shooting war, while the cause of the fighting — Dudayev's bid for independence — has not been addressed.

"It would have been better if they hadn't destroyed the hospital in the first place... That's what the Russians do — they destroy, then come and pretend they're builders," said 54-year-old doctor Zoya Esembayeva.

"Russia is a concentration camp for the Chechen people. Three hundred years of this is enough," she said angrily.

Actor rescued in wind-surfing incident

LONDON (R) — Rescuers went to the aid of actor James Fox Sunday after high winds knocked him off his windsurfer in a small lake near London. Rescuers were patrolling a nearby yachting championship and fished Fox out of the chilly waters at Ashford, west of London, after he had been splashing around for 15 minutes.

"When we got to the man he was tired out," said rescuer Helena Turnbull. "He said he had lost his windsurfer and had been in the water for some time. He was very cold and tired." Fox, 56, whose films include *The Servant*, *Remains Of The Day* and *A Passage To India*, said he had not been wearing a life jacket. "I had hired the board so I wasn't using my own gear and couldn't get things set up properly and I forgot to pick up a buoyancy aid, which was stupid," he said. "It was very windy and I wasn't enjoying my windsurfing very much. I came off and the board was being blown away from me all the time. I just wanted to get out of there and was glad to be picked up."

Rats, termites swallow court evidence

COLOMBO (R) — Exhibits ranging from the hide of a freese cow to a sack of marijuana have been destroyed by rats and termites at a court outside Colombo, setting back several trials, a newspaper said Monday. The exhibits were to be used as evidence in cases ranging from murder to drug trafficking at Negombo Magistrate's Court, the Daily News said.

At the nearby Kanuwana Circuit Court, where the Negombo magistrate sits every week, records have been ruined by a leaking roof, the newspaper said. "The magistrate has inspected the record rooms both at Negombo and Kanuwana and seen the damage for himself," the newspaper said. "The registrar has written to the Ministry of Justice and awaits action to better protect productions needed as evidence in cases awaiting trial."

Panda sets birth record

BEIJING (R) — Dongdong of giant panda has set a record, giving birth to her sixth cub in five years. Xinhua News Agency said Monday the panda's sixth cub was born last month at the Wolong Panda Research Centre in southwestern China's Sichuan province. Dongdong's first cub was born in 1991, it said. Two of first five have died. Local experts said it was the first time a giant panda, well-known for their poor reproductive capabilities, had given birth to six cubs in five years.

Fans pay homage to Elvis

BAD NAUHEIM, Germany (AP) — Thirty-five years after Elvis Presley completed his army service and left Germany, Elvis impersonators and adoring fans came to the small town where he lived to pay homage to the king. "For me he is the Jesus Christ of the 20th century," said Silvio Schmidt, 25, who took an overnight train from Vienna, Austria, for the one-day festival. "He was so charismatic, his music was so lovely." Others from Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and across Germany — about 1,000 in all — made the pilgrimage to Bad Nauheim, a spa town in central Germany. Many young women in the crowd wore 1950s-style hair, long sideburns and embroidered shirts were de rigueur for the serious male fans. Presley lived in Bad Nauheim while he did his military service two miles down the road in Friedberg.

Carlton of reptiles found in traffic check

VIENNA (AFP) — Traffic police stopped dozens of reptiles slipping through the net when a routine control in the Salzburg area of western Austria uncovered a carload of 36 creatures, mostly snakes and lizards, local police said. Police stopped the Czech car overnight Friday and discovered the reptiles, which had come from Italy and were destined for the Czech Republic as part of an illegal animal trafficking operation. Two people were arrested and the animals placed at a sanctuary in Salzburg.

With jury growing weary, defence seeks to wrap up Simpson case soon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With the O.J. Simpson jury growing weary, the defence is seeking to end its case soon with a quick knockout from the Mark Fuhrman tapes — if the judge lets any of them into evidence.

After Monday's cross-examination of defence forensic science expert Henry Lee, the trial moves into the volatile Fuhrman zone.

Mr. Fuhrman is one of the detectives who investigated the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. The defence claims he's a racist who's negative views toward blacks led him to fabricate evidence against Simpson.

A hearing is set for Tuesday on whether any or all of the portions of the taped interviews of the defence witness admitted will reach the ears of the jury. Also on tap are defence witnesses called to portray Mr. Fuhrman as a racist.

It's all part of a defence effort to show that Mr. Fuhrman not only lied when he denied on the witness stand ever using a racial slur against blacks in the last decade, but also that he's capable of planting evidence — say, a bloody glove — against Simpson.

Mr. Fuhrman, at the time a detective but now retired, said he found the glove behind Simpson's house the morning after the June 12, 1994, murders.

Simpson, who traded on a legendary football record for a career in movies, television and sports broadcasting has pleaded innocent to the charges.

If all goes as planned — and things rarely do in this trial — the defence could end its case by Friday. After a week or two of rebuttal by the prosecution, the case could go to the jury by the end of next month.

That is assuming jurors hold out that long.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito last week again expressed concerns about the durability of the 12 jurors and two alternates, who have been cooped up in a hotel since Jan. 11. The Simpson jury has set a California record for the longest sequestered jury. In recent weeks they have looked haggard.

One bit of excitement jurors may not be getting is a sequel to Mr. Fuhrman's testimony.

Although the Fuhrman tapes have rattled the Simpson trial like a California earthquake, he may not have

to testify again, even if the judge lets jurors hear some of the recordings, analysts say.

If Fuhrman invokes his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, he technically no longer has anything relevant to testify about, and California law protects him from having to take the fifth in front of the jury.

What the trial will see this week is a lot of feuding over Mr. Fuhrman, along with intense behind-the-scenes strategising by attorneys from both sides in the murder case.

The defence wants to introduce parts of the tapes, recorded from 1983 to 1994, in which Mr. Fuhrman spews racial hatred and talks of beating and framing suspects. Mr. Fuhrman's spokesman says he was just acting the role of a nasty cop for the interviewer, a writer working on a screenplay about a nasty cop.

If Judge Ito allows some of the tapes into evidence, one novel strategy would be for prosecutors to ask that all of Mr. Fuhrman's testimony by stricken. It's the kind of request normally made by defence lawyers seeking to remove damaging police testimony.

This would mean that neither side could mention Mr. Fuhrman in closing arguments.

Thailand denies assisting opium warlord

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai government and military Monday denied supporting Burma's opium warlord Khun Sa but appeared to rule out a joint Thai-Burmese operation against the drug rebel.

"The government has no policy to support Khun Sa but whether Thailand will assist Burma to attack him is a different matter because

that involves the sovereignty of each country," Thai Foreign Minister Kasem S. Kasemsri told reporters.

A senior official of Burma's military government said last week that Burmese forces were closing in on Khun Sa's Golden Triangle stronghold but neighbouring Thailand must cut off border support for the trafficker if he is to be finally crushed.

The Thai military denied that it was providing any cross-border support to Khun Sa.

"Khun Sa has been indicted here, he is wanted here so there is no reason for the Thai Armed Forces to extend support for a man wanted on criminal charges," Thai military spokesman Vice-Admiral Kraichit Sirinombath told a Monday news briefing.



A stolen bulldozer is deserted by its driver after demolishing part of the thick walls of the jail at Vridsløselille, allowing some dozen inmates to escape. Three of the fugitives were later recaptured. The escapees included murderers and other violent criminals (AFP photo)

Denmark stages manhunt after jailbreak

COPENHAGEN (R) — Police searched Monday for nine of Denmark's most dangerous convicts who escaped from a Copenhagen prison after an accomplice drove a bulldozer through the perimeter wall during a barbecue for inmates.

Three of 12 fugitives who escaped from Vridsløselille State Jail Sunday had been arrested by Monday morning. Border patrols and airports were on alert for the nine still at large after the biggest jailbreak in Danish history, police said.

The prisoners — all of them convicted killers, robbers or narcotics criminals — were enjoying a party in the prison yard when the bulldozer smashed a 13 metre wide opening in the wall at 5 p.m. (1500 GMT) Sunday.

Only two prison guards were keeping an eye on the party attended by about 25 convicts. Many of the prisoners opted to remain and finish their steaks rather than join the jailbreak.

A television crew from a local production company, TV-STOP, who said they had been tipped off about a demonstration outside the prison, were in place to shoot the escape.

Television footage showed the yellow bulldozer smashing into the six metre high wall and the driver jumping out in a cloud of dust and running away from the jail followed by a dozen convicts, some shouting "yes" in triumph.

Police said several getaway cars may have been waiting outside the prison but it was unlikely the jailbreak had been agreed beforehand by all the fugitives.

Vridsløselille Governor Lars Nielsen rejected a theory that the installation of telephones in the convicts' cells only three days ago could have helped the planning of the jailbreak.

Danish Justice Minister Bjoern Westh Sunday demanded a full report by local and national prison author-

ities on the escape and on overall security in Denmark's jails where conditions are among the most humane in the world.

The television photographer was released Monday morning after being questioned about what exactly he knew when he switched on his camera as the bulldozer came roaring towards the jail, situated in a working class suburb in west Copenhagen.

The bulldozer was stolen from a nearby gravel pit, police said.

The mass jailbreak took place as police were busy keeping order at a nearby Premier League game between Copenhagen's top soccer teams — Broendby and FC Copenhagen.

"It was very well timed. The people who planned this may have known we were tied up elsewhere," said Joern Bro, police chief in the south Copenhagen suburb of Glostrup.

Poll: Mexican rebels should be independent group

MEXICO CITY (R) — Nearly 60 per cent of Mexicans who took part in a national poll on the future of the country's Zapatista rebels said they should become an independent political movement, poll organisers said Monday.

About 30 per cent said they preferred that the guerrillas, who rose up in arms in the southern state of Chiapas last year, join other political parties in a broad opposition coalition, according to preliminary results.

"We have results from 33 per cent of the polling booths... representing 371,000 people," said a spokesman for the election monitoring group Civic Alliance, which organised Sunday's poll on behalf of the Zapatistas.

Based on that figure, organisers said they estimated about one million people took part in the poll — more than the minimum 600,000 that Zapatista leader Marcos had said he hoped for.

"This is a clear sign that

Mexicans want democracy and we are not going to sit on our hands waiting for it," Sergio Aguayo, a Civic Alliance leader, told reporters.

The rebels said they called the poll to help them decide their next steps. They say they do not wish to start fighting again but have ruled out giving up their weapons, saying they are necessary for self-defence.

The leaders of the guerrillas, including Marcos, are hiding from government forces in the Chiapas jungle.

Peace talks between the two sides, which are due to resume on Sept. 5, are deadlocked. Analysts said the rebel poll was aimed at boosting the Zapatistas' declining grip on the public imagination and showing the government they still have support.

The Mexican government did not try to impede the poll, an international version of which is also being carried out. A few minor incidents were reported in which police or unidentified individuals

disrupted the vote.

Results of the international poll among foreigners interested in the Chiapas conflict, which is partly being conducted over the internet, will be announced later this year, organisers said.

The national poll was held in assemblies of indigenous communities and at more than 10,000 voting booths around the country.

Those who voted also approved a series of general statements on the Zapatistas' aims. For example, 98 per cent agreed that "the main demands of the Mexican people are land, housing, work, food, health, education, culture, information, independence, democracy, freedom, justice, peace, security, fighting corruption and defending the environment."

Critics of the poll say such questions were framed in a way that would invite only positive responses.

In the city of San Cristobal De Las Casas in Chiapas, about 10,000 indigenous peo-

ple, some wearing the trademark ski-mask of the rebels, staged a march in support of the poll. Organisers said the turnout in the state was high.

In Mexico City, where more than 40 per cent of the voting booths were located, the turnout was patchy.

The Zapatista rebels rose up in arms in Chiapas on New Year's Day, 1994, to demand greater democracy and respect for indigenous rights. More than 150 people died in the first days of the rebellion, but there has been little fighting since.

In his first interview since a February army push that drove the Zapatistas deep into the jungle, forcing them out of the Chiapas villages they had occupied, Marcos told La Jornada newspaper last week that the poll's success would lie in "ruling out recourse to arms for both forces, leaving discussions completely in the political sphere."

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1995 5



Gertrude Mongella (centre), secretary-general of the U.N.'s fourth World Conference on Women, walks hand-in-hand with Huang Zhiyi, vice-chairman of the All China Women's Federation, as they view U.N. member flags at the Beijing International Conference Centre, the site of the conference. The convention centre was officially handed over to the U.N. for the conference which opens on Sept. 4 (AFP photo)

U.N. raises flag over World Women's Conference

BEIJING (R) — The U.N. raised its flag Monday for the World Women's Conference, which Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella hailed as the most important U.N. meeting in history, and excited delegates poured into China by train and plane from all over the globe.

Officials tried to cool controversy amid confusion over the issue of visas, saying world-bele participants who arrived without a visa might not be turned back at immigration.

As the pale blue U.N. flag fluttered above the Beijing

International Convention Centre, site of the Sept. 4-15 World Conference on Women, thousands of grassroots delegates from around the world poured through the capital airport.

"Today, we are at an important stage in our long road to the realization of the place of the women's conference in history," Ms. Mongella said after the flag raising.

"This will be the biggest and I dare say most important U.N. conference in history, because it is not about one group or the other," she said. "This conference affects

every human being on Earth." Delegates from 185 nations are to attend the conference and 30,000 people are to take part in the non-governmental organization (NGO) forum on women that will discuss issues from abortion to violence against women and female circumcision.

Among arrivals to what is expected to be the biggest conference the United Nations has ever held were Pierre Sane, head of London-based human-rights group Amnesty International.

"We are seeking guarantees that human rights are a women's right," Amnesty International said.

The group would focus on women's issues rather than on human-rights in China, a spokesman said.

Pink-shirted volunteers they expected 18,000 participants at Beijing's only airport Monday.

"Almost all of them will be foreigners from all over the world," a German-language student from Beijing University said. "I think most Chinese delegates are coming by train."

The most immediate problem was a shortage of baggage carts and a lengthy wait in a huge queue as just one bank teller changed money at the airport office of the Bank of China.

Some arrived without visas, taking a chance after confusion surrounding issuing at Chinese embassies, diplomats said.

Chinese officials said such arrivals would be dealt with appropriately and might not be expelled. NGO organizers said officials had given a visa to one woman from Cyprus

arriving aboard a train from Warsaw. Danielle Stevens, a professor from Portland State University in Oregon in the United States, said she and her daughter got their visas two hours before departure and a frustrating lack of information from Chinese diplomats defeated some women who wanted to come.

"It's nice to finally be here," said Lourdes Quintanilla, a health official from Mexico. "I'm very emotional. I have, what do you call it, butterflies," she said after the last of four flights from Mexico, gesturing at her stomach.

Hundreds of police lined streets in suburban Huairou where the grassroots forum is being held and officials sifted through baggage of delegates as part of a tight security net.

China is nervous some delegates may try to hold protests.

"Everything seems to be going peacefully and I hope that the people who come to the conference will maintain this tempo," Ms. Mongella said.

"It feels very good to be here," said Loretta Ross from the Centre for Democratic Renewal based in Atlanta, Georgia. "We were told the government of China was going to do everything to keep us radical women out. Turns out the power of women is stronger even than the government of China."

The organizing committee found one unusual way to raise funds, auctioning a 90 kilogramme mooncake, traditionally eaten at the mid-autumn festival, to raise 4,800 yuan (\$875).

"My original budget was 10,000 (\$1,500) but competitors were too few," said successful bidder, businessman Qi Zhongquan. He donated the cake filled with walnuts, sesame seeds, melon seeds and almonds to the conference.



A United Nations honour guard raises the U.N. flag outside the Beijing International Conference Centre, the site of the World Conference on Women at the handover ceremony (AFP photo)

ICRC ready to take food to Sri Lankan war zone

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday it had reached an agreement with the Sri Lankan government to resume food supplies to the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula in the north.

Government sources said the ICRC would again escort government chartered ships to a rebel-controlled port in the war zone while continuing to avoid services to the navy fort of Kankesanthurai.

"After satisfactory discussions between the ICRC and the government... the ICRC has decided to immediately resume its activity of escorting the ships chartered by the government agent in Jaffna," the ICRC said in a statement sent by facsimile to Reuters.

Government sources said a key condition to end the month-old suspension of ICRC's operations to Jaffna, stronghold of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), allows search of the ICRC-protected ships before they are offloaded at Point Pedro.

The ICRC stopped sailing to the northern region in late July after its own ship was sunk by a mine off Kankesanthurai. It later resumed services to Point Pedro, a Tiger-controlled port, saying it had security guarantees from the guerrillas to go there.

It was not immediately clear whether the Tigers had endorsed the proposed search of the ships, which government sources said would take place 10 kilometres off Point Pedro.

"We have no further details at the moment," an ICRC spokesman said, declining to clarify the deal with the government.

The ICRC statement said two government-chartered ships, the Maho and the Kalyani, were already loaded and waiting at Colombo, adding they "would leave for the north as soon as possible."

Government officials said the deal with the ICRC was made possible by the intervention by Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

"Her excellency personally intervened to arrange to rush food supplies to Jaffna," the region's government agent K. Ponnampalam told Reuters.

Some 300,000 people were threatened with hunger as a result of the month-old standoff between the ICRC and the government.

A rebel radio broadcast said Sunday a U.N. observer was holding talks with guerrilla leaders in Jaffna, discussing the food crisis.

Meanwhile police commanders backed by air cover attacked Tamil Tiger guerrillas in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 21 rebels while losing three commandos, military officials here said Monday.

Special Task Force (STF) commandos launched the offensive in the Batticaloa district Sunday against the LTTE, a day after the rebels tried to overrun a task force base there, the sources said.

"We have confirmation that 21 terrorists were killed," a military source said. "One of them is an area leader. We fear that three STF men were also killed in the confrontation."

The air force was called in to bomb rebel reinforcements and support ground troops who confronted the LTTE in the jungles of Kankudichchiam.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, made no mention of the weekend battles. On Saturday, the task force claimed another 36 rebels for the loss of six security men, also in Batticaloa district.

The Voice of Tigers said that there had been heavy shelling from an army camp located at Mandaitivu, just west of the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula. The rebel radio did not say if there were any casualties.

The failed bid to attack the task force camp was the latest setback suffered by the rebels, who lost more than 300 fighters in an attack against the main Well Oya military base in the northeast last month.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northeast where the Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict since 1972.

In a separate development, Sri Lanka has detained 20 intelligence officers for questioning over the appearance of badly decomposed bodies of young men in lakes and rivers close to Colombo, a senior police officer told Reuters Monday.

The detentions came as a Tamil rebel newspaper said some of the bodies were those of minority Tamils whose eyes and kidneys had been removed before being killed.

Between 50 and 60 army

and police intelligence officers had been questioned over the killings and 20 detained, the officer said.

More than 20 bodies have been found since May, most of them in the Bolgoda Lake, south of Colombo, with some of the victims apparently starved and tortured before they were killed, police said.

Earlier this month, three decomposed bodies were found floating in the Diyawanna Oya, a lake surrounding Sri Lanka's parliament near Colombo, bringing the number of bodies found there to five.

Inside Report, a newspaper published by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), quoting the Citizens' Committee of the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula in the north as saying some of the bodies were of Tamils whose organs had been removed before being dumped.

"Vital human organs like eyes and kidneys (have been) removed before the bodies of those tortured and killed are thrown into the river," the committee was quoted as saying.

President Kumaratunga's office said recently the government was "deeply concerned" about the bodies.

Mrs. Kumaratunga had ordered a special investigation under the direct supervision of police Chief W. Rajaguru, a statement said.

"The number of the dead and the circumstances surrounding the disposal of the bodies suggest that a well organised group with substantial resources is at the bottom of these macabre killings," the state-owned Daily News said in a recent editorial.

Greenpeace warned not to breach nuclear zone

ABOARD THE RAINBOW WARRIOR, South Pacific (Agencies) — A French naval officer warned Greenpeace Sunday not to breach an exclusion zone around France's main South Pacific nuclear test site and would not comment on a suspected sighting of a submarine.

The officer, who did not identify himself, spoke by radio from one of two French warships circling the protest group's flagship Rainbow Warrior II and two other boats in the vanguard of a flotilla off the Mururoa Atoll test site.

The New Zealand Navy research ship Tui was also in the area to protest against the planned resumption of nuclear tests but kept its distance from the Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior and Vega and the Danish yacht Bifrost.

Speaking in French, the officer said the Rainbow Warrior was 10 nautical miles from the edge of a 12-mile (20-km) exclusion zone around Mururoa and the French Navy ships — a frigate and patrol boat — were there to stop it entering.

But he declined to comment on the suspected sighting of a submarine by the Rainbow Warrior's first mate Saturday.

Asked by a French television journalist on the Rainbow Warrior if there was a sub in the area, the officer said: "I cannot answer this question." He then ended the communication.

Earlier, after the Rainbow Warrior met the Vega and the Bifrost off Mururoa Sunday morning, first-mate Derek Nicholls said he felt sure he had seen the periscope of a submarine while on watch on Saturday afternoon.

"It was really, really close," Mr. Nicholls told Reuters Sunday. "That's why I'm pretty sure of what I saw." "It certainly was not my imagination as there were 300 metres away and it went straight up and stayed there for about 15 seconds and went straight back down again," he added.

"I thought, okay, it must be a while, but I have never seen anything alive that reacts like straight up and down."

About 30 boats, many of them still sailing for Mururoa, are expected off the atoll by early next month, including a total of four Greenpeace vessels whose crew aim to prevent the first test going ahead.

The MV Greenpeace, which carries a helicopter, was expected to join the vanguard of the flotilla Monday.

France plans a final round of eight tests at Mururoa or the nearby Fangataufa Atoll between next month and May 1996.

French military policing the exclusion zones around Mururoa and Fangataufa have warned all boats, including the Tui, they would break French law if they breached the zones.

French warning notes delivered at sea to the Tui, Vega and Bifrost are all said to have stated the military respects their right to protest and will come to their rescue if the boats encounter difficulties.

Anti-nuclear campaigner Stephanie Mills, aboard the Rainbow Warrior, declined to say how Greenpeace plans to stop the first test. Another activist said the exclusion zones were so large as to be almost impossible to police.

"You can go in there (undetected)," said Henk Haazen, one of three activists who claim to have evaded French forces around Mururoa for almost two weeks in a small, black inflatable dinghy in July.

"They might have toughened up security measures but it's still an awful big area to control. There's a long line of beach there and some of it is inaccessible."

Kashmiri Muslims vow to block elections

SRINAGAR (AFP) — Muslim leaders Monday vowed to pursue a campaign against Indian rule in Kashmir and oppose elections in the troubled province, governed directly by the New Delhi since 1990.

The All Parties Freedom Conference, which groups some 30 Muslim political and rebel outfits, warned that federal plans for polls in Kashmir by the end of the year would escalate violence.

"The hard reality is that Kashmir is not an integral part of India," said the Conference head, Umer Farooq.

Kashmir's chief cleric, "Holding elections... clearly shows the frustration of the government."

"Elections are no solution and, if forced, can lead to more bloodshed as our fight is not for elections but ousting India out of Kashmir," said Syed Ahmad Geelani, a senior Conference leader.

"The best way to end the Kashmir dispute is by starting serious negotiations between the three parties — Kashmiris, India and Pakistan."

The comments came after Indian troops fired guns in the air and lobbed tear gas to disperse protesters opposed to polls the hill district of Leh. The voting is seen as a precursor to regional elections in the troubled state.

It also followed the first public meeting in the Kashmir Valley in six years by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party, to drum up support for the proposed elections.

Security forces fired a dozen shots and more than 100 tear gas shells in Srinagar to disperse a protest march to a local U.N. office.

Conference leaders criticised Monday's election to a 30-member autonomous

council in the Leh, which adjoins the Kashmir Valley and is evenly populated by Muslims and Buddhists.

The polls were a "breach" of U.N. resolutions on Kashmir, disputed by neighbours India and Pakistan, Mr. Farooq said, urging Islamists to "try and raise the issue in the United Nations."

Mr. Farooq also circulated copies of a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, terming the polls "a malicious attempt to create communal hatred and regional bias."

Mr. Farooq also said he was "helping us," I saw many people were wounded. Two men were lying on the ground with burns all over their body," he said from hospital where he was treated for minor injuries.

The dead included three factory workers and a five-year-old girl who was burned when she was hit by flaming debris as she and her mother strolled 500 metres from the factory.

Eighty people were working in the compound when explosions ripped through the area at mid-morning, speaking a fire that razed one of the wooden houses where various types of fireworks were being made, police said.

Ms. Sevilano, 21, said she was putting firecrackers in their paper wrappers when an explosion rocked a wooden structure where other fireworks were stored, setting it alight.

Pakistan had already paid for Islamabad wants the arms or its \$1.4 billion back.

"Americans feel the current arrangement simply is not fair or responsible," said Sen. Brown, who is working with the U.S. administration to get a one-time waiver of the arms sales ban.

His amendment would allow delivery of \$370 million worth of the contracted military equipment, but not the F-16s, and a refund for the planes, which could be sold to a third country.

No buyer for the 28 ageing F-16s has yet come forward, although the United States has asked Indonesia and the Philippines if they would be interested.

Sen. Brown's amendment would also make clear that the United States was free to cooperate with Pakistan in such areas as peacekeeping and fighting terrorism and drug smuggling.

4 die in Philippine factory blast

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Four people died and 22 were injured Monday in a fireworks factory explosion that may have been set off by a cigarette, police said.

"It was like a bomb... I felt the ground trembling as if there was an earthquake," factory worker Carolyn Sevilano said after fleeing flames that engulfed the compound in Divisoria outside Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines.

"People were shouting, 'help us, help us,' I saw many people were wounded. Two men were lying on the ground with burns all over their body," he said from hospital where he was treated for minor injuries.

The dead included three factory workers and a five-year-old girl who was burned when she was hit by flaming debris as she and her mother strolled 500 metres from the factory.

Eighty people were working in the compound when explosions ripped through the area at mid-morning, speaking a fire that razed one of the wooden houses where various types of fireworks were being made, police said.

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Hashimoto emerges as sole candidate in Japan LDP leadership battle

TOKYO (AFP) — International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto emerged Monday as sole candidate to lead the biggest party in Japan's ruling coalition after Foreign Minister Yohsuke Kono dropped out of the race.

Mr. Kono, who has headed the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for barely two years following the loss of its parliamentary majority in 1993, declared Monday that he would not run in elections for the LDP presidency next month.

"Japan is in great trouble and I have been questioning whether the LDP, the most responsible party in Japanese politics, should be engaged solely in intra-party bickering," he told a nationally televised news conference.

The surprise announcement by Mr. Kono, who also serves as deputy prime minister, came as Mr. Hashimoto appeared to be gaining the upper hand in the LDP leadership battle.

Mr. Hashimoto officially announced last week he would run for the LDP president in elections scheduled for Sept. 22 and Mr. Kono said last week that he would declare his candidacy Tuesday.

The trade and industry minister, who has made no secret of his desire to become prime minister, is so far the only LDP member to declare for the party's top job.

Mr. Hashimoto said he was "quite surprised" by Mr. Kono's decision. "I was hoping to hold a healthy debate,"

he said.

The LDP accounts for more than half of cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who heads the left-wing Social Democratic Party. The third coalition party is the small New Party Sakigake of Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

Mr. Kono declined to say whether he would step down as foreign minister and deputy prime minister, saying this should be decided by Mr. Murayama. Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) said the government would ask Mr. Kono to stay.

The reshuffle followed the poor performance of all three coalition parties in July upper-house elections which saw strong gains by the New Frontier Party headed by former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, himself a former LDP president.

New Frontier, formed through a merger of opposition groups at the end of last year, is dominated by dozens of disaffected LDP deputies who left the then ruling party in 1993, and the Buddhist-backed Komeito.

Mr. Kono, considered a moderate, replaced former Prime Minister Kiiebi Miyazawa as LDP president in 1993 after the party lost its four-decade grip on power in a general election triggered by the massive LDP defections.

At the time, the LDP decided to abandon the traditional practice of picking leaders through back-room deals among factions. The party also decided to allow rank and file members to vote for the president and not just members of parliament, a move which seems to have hastened Mr. Kono's downfall.

Kyodo News Service reported at the weekend that Mr. Hashimoto was more popular than Mr. Kono among the party rank and file.

Mr. Kono's decision appeared to have little immediate impact on the government although the long-term consequences were not clear.

Mr. Hashimoto was quoted as saying Sunday that the outcome of the LDP election "should not affect the government" formed by the three parties in June last year. "Whatever the result, I will not destroy the three-party coalition."

But NHK noted that Mr. Hashimoto was considered a hawk within the LDP and that his election as party president was certain to have an impact on the coalition.

The conservative party was thrown into opposition for the first time in four decades in 1993 when the Social Democrats formed a coalition with several other parties, including the LDP defectors. The coalition fell apart last year when the Social Democrats switched sides to form a rival coalition with the LDP.

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Dilemma around Jericho

SINCE BY Israel's own admission the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is not legally obligated to hand over suspects in bomb attacks within Israel, why should Jericho come under siege by the Israelis? The Israeli minister of justice, David Lihai, told a radio station Sunday that "by virtue of the accords between us, the Palestinian Authority is not obliged to transfer criminals to (Israel) the moment they are judged and sentenced." Mr. Lihai went on to say that because of this legal construction of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements Israel "has not presented any formal extradition request." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres made the same interpretation of the accords when he said that "we have examined the legal aspects of this question in the cabinet and we have concluded that an extradition cannot be requested."

The bone of contention between the two sides are two Palestinians who belong to Hamas and are suspected of engineering the suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem on Aug. 21 that left five people dead and scores of others injured. The PNA has in fact apprehended the two men and sentenced them to 12 and seven years imprisonment respectively but refused to hand them over to Israel. Israel, however, continued its siege of Jericho in spite of the fact that there are no legal grounds to extradite the two on the pretext that the Jericho enclave is allegedly used as a safe haven for militant Palestinians who hide in it after conducting bombing attacks against Israeli targets.

The real issue here is not whether "wanted" Palestinians can and do hide in Jericho. Had this been the Israelis' real concern, then all Israel has to do is to call on the PNA to arrest all such people and take them to court for a fair trial. But to put the entire city of more than 10,000 people under siege is tantamount to putting all the residents of that city in prison. If this treatment of autonomous Jericho is a prelude to the treatment of other autonomous cities and towns in the future each time there is an attack against Israeli targets, then the whole Oslo agreement has to be questioned.

The only effective way of dealing with terrorism on either side is to accelerate the peace talks between them and realise an early Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories, in a bid at least to delineate each party's tasks and responsibilities. As long as there is an overlap in jurisdiction there will always be problems like the one in and around Jericho.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily urged all Palestinian factions, including Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's various groups, to unite in the face of Israel's stand vis-a-vis the city of Hebron. Not only was the city occupied in 1967 along with the rest of the West Bank areas, but the Israelis chose to occupy the city once again by building Kiryat Araba settlement close to it and again by planting 100 Jewish families in the heart of the Arab quarters, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that to further consolidate their hold on the city, the Israelis last Friday attacked one of its homes, killing, in cold blood, two Hamas activists. Saying that the Israelis seem intent on perpetuating their occupation of the Arab city of 100,000 residents, the writer added that the question of Hebron has been deferred until the last phase of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on expanding the self-rule areas under the Oslo accord. The assassination of the two Hamas activists, and the demolition of the house where the two men hid, provide further evidence about Israel's ill intentions, said the writer. He said that the various Palestinian factions ought to agree on a common denominator and work together to save their homeland.

AL RA'I daily said Monday that the decision by the Council of Higher Education to accept a very limited group of students at the state-run universities was contrary to His Majesty King Hussein's slogan: Man is our most precious and valuable asset. The decision also conflicts with the concept of democracy and constitutes an infringement on citizens' right to choose, said the paper. It said the decision aborts parents' hopes to secure higher education for their children. Describing the decision of the council as a deadly blow to many Jordanian families, the paper said the whole Jordanian society ought to make moves to put an end to injustice. The paper said that a nation-wide campaign should be launched to back Parliament members' call to deal with this problem swiftly and promptly not only to serve justice to this year's school graduates but also to those graduating in the coming years.

The View from Fourth Circle

The democratisation train: Stalled or only paused?

By Rami G. Khouri

THE CONSIDERABLE controversy within Jordan about the condition of our post-1989 democratisation drive should be a cause for vigilance but not panic. There are many signs that the government and the power elite in general have become rather less tolerant of dissent and opposition opinions in the last several years, and less sensitive to public opinion in general on issues such as the peace process, normalisation with Israel, and relations with the USA, Iraq and others.

This has caused many to wonder if the Jordanian train of democratisation and political liberalisation has reached its final station, or is simply pausing at a station to prevent overheating, before continuing its forward journey. Time will tell. A good sign is the fact that the government has not yet changed any laws in order to erode or reverse any of the democratisation gains of the last six years — though reports suggest that some ministers would like to see changes made restricting rights in areas such as the press, political assembly and other critical aspects of democratisation.

The more sensitive and even restrictive government attitude to dissenting opinion is probably explained by the fact that the government is focusing all of its intellectual and political energy on fully implementing the peace accord with Israel; the quality and depth of our young democratic pluralism thus assume secondary importance for the time being.

In this context of serious domestic debate about the condition of our political system, we are challenged to accurately identify the nature of change that is underway and to focus on strategic, long-term targets that serve our genuine national interest — rather than the interests of distant or nearby imperial powers. The process of national political transformation — that we experience in Jordan today may be the single most important goal or value that defines us at this moment, and that differentiates us from other Arab or Third World states.

The process I mention is that by which we engage in domestic political, ideological and even cultural dialogue and debate in order to reach a consensus on a new brand of political culture that will slowly replace the old political culture that defined Jordan for the first six decades of its modern life. The old way, in which the government and a national power elite made all the important decisions that determined people's lives, has shown that it cannot endure for a combination of fiscal and political reasons.

The gradual liberalisation and democratisation of Jordan since 1989 have included many turns and twists, and various domestic political forces have seen themselves rise and decline. Islamists, tribalists, leftists, pan-Arabists, narrow Jordanian nationalists, Palestinian-Jordanian confederalists, and pro-government centrists compete daily for the support of the population, whether in formal elections,

political party membership, or the public marketplace of ideas in the unofficial press and other fora.

Jordan has witnessed substantial domestic debate in recent months about several important regional and domestic issues, even though that debate has not enriched the state-run information media but has been restricted to the unofficial press and other private institutions. The very fact of the debate that continues to take place is a constructive sign of our ability to express sharp political differences in a rational, civilised manner. Jordan may be the Arab country that is experiencing the most steady, sustained and meaningful political transformation from old ways to new, from a concentration of power in the hands of a small circle of decision makers to a more diffused manner of decision-making.

The relative decline of the domestic political power of Islamists and leftists, and the simultaneous rise of centrists and tribalists, is an early indication of the kinds of shifts in power that we are likely to witness in the years ahead, assuming, as I do, that the process of political modernisation and liberalisation will continue. This peaceful transfer of relative political power from some ideologies and tendencies to others within the country is a rather historic achievement in modern Arab political culture. It signals the strength of Jordan as a possible model for others in the region to follow — but only if the process of open, free and honest political debate and electoral competition continues and does not stall.

We cannot know now what Jordan's ideological identity will be in the coming years; but we do know that it can best assure itself a serious role in this region by being a credible example of a traditional Arab-Islamic culture that is committed to liberalisation and modernisation as means for its people to express their genuine identity, aspirations and values. Politically active Jordanians will always differ in their ideological beliefs, but they should agree on the importance of maintaining our expanding space for political debate and disagreement. Only if we maintain this valuable asset — our legally sanctioned rights publicly to disagree with each other and with the government — can we reach national consensus on the big issues that confront us now and in the future.

It does not much matter if Jordan turns to the right, centre or left. What matters most is that Jordan maintain the capacity to make such political and ideological turns when its people and leadership feel the need to do so, and to make those turns in a rational, peaceful and open manner based on the respect of individual rights and the will of the majority.

Any government will always, naturally, try to minimise dissent and to impose its views with the minimum amount

of public discussion; this is the nature of power and incumbency, and we in Jordan are not about to rewrite the rules of human nature. What we can do, however, is to rewrite the rules of modern Arab governance, to insist that our ideological and other political differences will be our ideological and other political differences that in turn channelled into an open, free process of debate that in turn underpins a truly representative and accountable system of participatory governance.

The grumbling that we hear from many political activists is the sound of a minority that is learning the rules of the majority rule. The majority in Jordan appears content with government policies, to judge by parliamentary voting and the results of the recent municipal elections. The outvoted minority is partly irritated about its more obvious lack of political clout; but it is mainly fearful that the pluralistic and participatory process of political decision-making itself may gradually erode and fray, and that its voices may be slowly silenced by the self-congratulatory attitude of a political elite that neither seeks nor values differing opinions.

These are real concerns that cannot be dismissed, even though they may only reflect the views of a minority of political activists. How the government and the dominant power structure address these concerns will be a good indicator of where we stand in our process of political transformation. Five years ago, at a similar turning point, His Majesty King Hussein responded to the challenge of the day by turning to the collective wisdom of the Jordanian people and summoning the royal commission that drew up the National Charter. The commission's process of collective decision-making based on consensus was as important as the final document it drew up. Today, also, the process of political governance is as important as the specifics of its policies, and we must pay attention to the continued buoyancy and health of the very process of pluralistic political governance.

It might be useful to consider reconvening that same royal commission again, or an equivalent body that represents the full spectrum of political and social thought in Jordan, in order to strengthen and reinvigorate our national commitment to pluralistic democratisation — or at least to redefine and clarify those of its elements that have been subjected to some recent questioning by some Jordanians.

It is very healthy for Jordan to experience ideological competition conducted in an open, peaceful manner. It is vital that such a process should not stall or regress, but rather that it should continue and expand. It may be the single most important historical contribution that Jordan makes to the modern Arab World.

Will Beijing take on Moscow's old role of rival superpower to the United States?

In Washington, Rupert Cornwell detects signs of a return to cold war simplifications, while in China, Teresa Poole finds resentment growing against Uncle Sam

China and America on the edge of the abyss

ANY RUMOURS that the legendary diplomat and foreign affairs theorist George Kennan is, at the tender age of 91, emerging from his Princeton retreat to take charge of Washington's China policy in person may be utterly dismissed. But the same cannot be said with such certainty of the doctrine that Kennan made famous, and upon which America built its cold war strategy against the Soviet Union. Now the U.S. ponders how to deal with the ambitions of the stirring Pacific Rim giant that seems preordained to take on Moscow's old role of rival superpower. And once again thoughts are turning to "containment."

In public, today's generation of policymakers here have none of it. The U.S., they insist, is committed to "constructive engagement" with China, to drawing the country irrevocably into the global mainstream, rather than boxing it off from the rest of the world. Such is the message of Peter Tarnoff, the third ranking official at the State Department, as he attempted to reverse the perilous downward spiral in Sino-American relations during his visit to Beijing last week. Nor are the immediate omens unfavourable.

The Chinese American human rights activist Harry Wu, the most recent bone of contention between the two countries, has been expelled from China. Hillary Clinton is now likely to feel she can decently travel after all to Beijing as honorary head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations conference on women at the beginning of September. That gesture in turn may make it easier to take the edge off other disputes, ranging from Taiwan and trade to nuclear testing and weapons proliferation. But they will not disappear. And as China continues to grow into an economic colossus to match the U.S. itself, and its diplomatic and military clout grow in similar measure, calls for neo-containment are bound to multiply.

The doctrine possesses after all a beguiling simplicity in these confused and fragmented post-cold war times. America has always

tended to a Manichean view of the world, populated by good guys and bad guys. How easy, it seems in retrospect, it was to manage world affairs when the Soviet Union was the fount of all wrong, and every decision could be subordinated to, and justified by, that logic. What is more, in some respects, the reputation of the old Soviet Union fits modern China like a glove; only that as Asia has replaced Europe as the driving force of the planet, so the villain has appropriately shifted from the North Atlantic to the Pacific.

Just as the Soviet gulags in their day, so do China's human rights abuses today — from intolerance of political dissent to the use of forced prison labour and worse — arouse the idealistic and moralising instincts of American foreign policy-makers. For Andrei Sakharov, read Harry Wu. Theoretically at least, China remains Communist. Just like the old Soviet Union, it is prickly, secretive and largely unfathomable for foreigners. It is also seeking to expand its territory. Only too clearly, it is up to no good. For the vocal and ideology-driven Republican right, the "evil empire" has not vanished; its capital has merely been shifted a few thousand miles east.

And, for this school and others, the parallels do not end there. Once it was Tibet yesterday, Hong Kong today, then Taiwan and perhaps the Spratly Islands and the South China Sea shortly thereafter. Why not for that matter, turn ASEAN into an oriental NATO? In some senses, "containment" already exists. China is ringed by important U.S. allies, from Japan and Korea in the north to the Philippines in the south. "Containment" was defined by Mr. Kennan in his memorandum of 1946 as "the adroit and vigilant application of counter-force at geographical and political points corresponding to the shifts and manoeuvres of Soviet policy." In that sense, the recent reestablishment of ties between the U.S. and Vietnam, an historic foe of China, is containment, pure and simple.

And almost inevitably, whatever the protestations of Mr. Tarnoff and others, "containment" is bound to be a strand in American policy towards China. But it cannot be the only strand. The challenge for Washington lies in grasping the differences between the Soviet Union then and China now. Fifty years ago, Moscow over-ran half of Europe. In seeking Hong Kong and Taiwan, China only wants to reclaim Chinese-inhabited territories that historically have been part of China. Notwithstanding the intemperate urgings of Speaker Newt Gingrich that the U.S. accord full diplomatic recognition to Taiwan, the existing "One China" policy implicitly recognises that the island's long-term future belongs with the mainland.

Washington must accept the fact that China always was and always will be a regional colossus, by dint of size and population alone. Its policies, though, must also reflect the bigger difference between the emerging Asian superpower and the old Soviet Union. Never was Moscow seriously considered a global economic heavyweight. It possessed instead what China lacks — and will continue to lack for the foreseeable future — the ability to project military power into every corner of the planet. China's strength is increasingly economic. Arguably the biggest lurking danger to Sino-American relations lies not in China's territorial or military ambitions, but a huge and still growing trade surplus with Washington, which in a few years may well outstrip that of Japan.

Perhaps the last word belongs to Mr. Kennan, who in hindsight believes that Washington took "containment" Mark I to self-defeating lengths. The general effect of our cold war extremism, he wrote recently, "was to delay rather than hasten the great change which overtook the Soviet Union." The great change currently overtaking China is of a different kind — economic, not (or at least not yet) political, liberalisation. But the result may yet be the same. A revamped "containment" therefore, by feeding China's historic grievances and insecurity, could prove no less counter-productive than the doctrine practised against Moscow for most of the second half of the 20th century.

THERE IS NO mystery about what the United States Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff, expected to hear during his talks last week with Chinese officials to discuss the parlous state of Sino-American relations. As the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Chen Jian, explained, Washington's "top priority" is to honour its "One China" policy with immediate "concrete actions." The expulsion of the detained human rights activist, Harry Wu Hongda, may have improved the atmosphere as far as America is concerned, but for China other far more important issues remain non-negotiable.

As Beijing sees it, President Clinton's decision to allow the Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui, to visit the U.S. in June was the culmination of a series of anti-Chinese initiatives by Washington. As far as Beijing is concerned, Washington is bent on "splitting the motherland" by continuing to bolster the regime in Taiwan, which the mainland regards as a renegade province. The visit was the last straw for China, which had already become increasingly strident in its complaints about Washington's "big power bullying."

The litany of America's alleged offences against China's dignity is lengthy. Beijing maintains that the U.S. persistently interferes in a whole range of "internal" matters including human rights, Tibet, and the country's family planning policies, behaving as if it were the "world cop." The Chinese also resent the way America lambasts them for recent nuclear tests, given that the U.S. has itself carried out 20 times as many. China blames Washington for its failure to gain admission to the World Trade Organisation, and it has still not forgiven its adversary for publicly opposing Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympics.

In such an embittered mood, the Chinese government is now warning its population to beware the hordes of radical American feminists who, it fears, are

set on undermining Beijing's successful hosting of the Fourth World Conference on Women, starting next week. Thus has the Sino-U.S. relationship slipped to what the official Xinhua news agency described as "their lowest ebb" since diplomatic ties were established in 1979.

China has always resented any foreign "meddling" in Chinese affairs and views the outside world as determined to keep it down. "It is well-known that the Chinese people won their right of development only after driving big Western powers out of China through a century-long struggle," said Xinhua last week. Attacking the U.S. media for its anti-Chinese bias, Xinhua raged: "To put it bluntly, what made the slanderers gnash their teeth was precisely their fear of the 'rise of China'."

No one disputes that China is now rising. The Middle Kingdom confidently expects to become an economic superpower over the next decade and, in the post-cold war world order, a strategic counterpoint to American global might. In a country where children are taught by rote at an early age how China enjoys a 5,000-year civilisation and invented gunpowder, the compass and printing, the culture's ingrained nationalism now has the opportunity to vent itself in the diplomatic arena. The fact that China is also entering an uncertain period because of the impending death of 91-year-old Deng Xiaoping, only encourages the leadership to fan the patriotic flame.

Restored pride and influence has not, however, led to an acceptance that successful international relations usually involve a degree of compromise. The agreement wrung by Washington from Beijing earlier this year on intellectual property rights protection was secured only at the eleventh hour after the countdown had begun on massive punitive trade sanctions against China. Beijing's brinkmanship on that

occasion achieved nothing but a very public climb-down over the closure of a number of factories producing pirated goods. At the end of the day, America was confident it held the upper hand because of the vast trade imbalance in China's favour.

On issues where Beijing feels supremely confident that right is on its side, it still displays a conspicuous lack of diplomatic finesse. Take, for instance, the question of the Spratly Islands, an archipelago scattered across the South China Sea, which is claimed all or in part by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Over the past month China has been making noises that it was prepared to negotiate over the dispute. But last week it emerged that Beijing plans to hold military exercises somewhere in the Spratlys, a move that is bound to revive complaints among its Asian neighbours that it is China which is the bully. The Spratlys could be a key test of whether China — uncompromising when dealing with Western countries — can develop a more mature approach to relations with fellow East Asian countries.

For Mr. Tarnoff, what matters is whether Harry Wu Hongda's expulsion signals any softening in China's belligerent style of diplomacy with the U.S. Up until now, the "concrete actions" demanded by Beijing as a pre-condition for an improvement in Sino-U.S. relations included an explicit assurance that Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui will not be making any more visits to the U.S. Beijing clearly realised that not even Mr. Wu was a big enough bargaining chip to extract this concession. If not mature, China has at least shown on the Harry Wu Hongda case that it can be pragmatic. In the end, Beijing did not want the spectre of a jailed Harry Wu Hongda looming over the forthcoming women's conference.

The Independent

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Features

Mother of all mountains, father of all obsessions

K2 is far bigger than the egos of climbers. Peter Beaumont and Ed Douglas report on the mountain that even the bravest men and women cannot tame.



Alison Hargreaves with her children Tom and Kate after her ascent of Everest

AT THE foot of "the savage mountain," which stands as one of the great challenges to the select breed of men and women who dedicate their lives to climbing, lies a small cairn of rust-coloured glacial rocks marked by a crudely carved wooden cross.

Every climber passing by on the way to attempt K2, the second highest mountain in the world and one of the toughest, knows the significance of the Gilkey Memorial, named after an American climber who disappeared in 1953.

A collection of flattened tins and aluminium plates attached to the stones with bits of wire and nylon tape bears the names of those who have lost their lives on the mountain, etched laboriously into the metal by their colleagues.

Most are remembered by just their name, nationality and date of death. Some have epitaphs. Nick Escourt, a Briton killed in 1978, is described as "a great climbing hero."

Another seven names must now be added to the memorial following this month's tragedy in which Alison Hargreaves, the British mountaineer, paid the ultimate price for pursuing an obsession after she was swept off the mountain, it is believed, by an avalanche.

Her death, and those of the five men with whom she was returning from the summit — American Rob Slater, New Zealander Bruce Grant and three Spaniards, together with Canadian Jeff Lakes, who died exhausted trying to find the missing climbers — brings the number of lives claimed by the mountain to 45.

Hargreaves's husband, Jim Ballard, who stayed behind at home in Scotland with their two children, Tom, six, and Kate, four, has no regrets, despite having to break the heartbreaking news that in all probability — for he has yet to abandon hope — "mummy isn't coming home."

"I am not sad if she has died. I would have been more sad if she hadn't climbed the mountain. I can't explain that. If she is dead, she has at least died where she wanted to and she was on her way down after becoming the first woman to climb the two highest peaks on earth without oxygen and in pure style," he said on Friday, referring to her conquest earlier this year of Everest.

What Alison would have wanted to say is that she thought and thought about what she was doing and the impact on her children. I am sure she thought hard before she went for the summit.

It is the fact that Hargreaves was a mother who was prepared to put her maternal role on hold, however, that obscures the issue for many people. Even in the nineties, when a woman's right to self-fulfilment is undisputed, there are many who question whether, in leaving her children motherless, she displayed anything remotely approaching heroic qualities.

The argument ignores the exceptional nature of the 33-year-old scientific officer's daughter from Derbyshire, a natural sports-woman who always needed a goal — the harder the better — to aspire to.

And it ignores the pressures of modern mountaineering, where commercial considerations weigh as heavily as the thirst for personal glory. It is a one-sided debate, for it is unlikely ever to centre on a dead sportsman and father who is killed by his climbing.

At the time Hargreaves died, two other British climbers were swept away by an avalanche on another peak in the same Karakoram range. Paul Nunn, aged 52, president of the British Mountaineering Council and the father of two grown-up daughters, was killed, along with Geoff Tier, a 50-year-old Sheffield climber who left a wife and a six-year-old daughter.

No questions were raised as to whether the father of a young child should have gone mountaineering. But with Hargreaves the debate cuts across gender and generation. As a mother, did she have the right to follow the creed that she adopted — "better to live one day as a tiger than 1,000 years as a sheep?"

Alison Hargreaves found it difficult to account for her inner compulsion to climb, beyond expressing a determination to be the very best, and forge a career in a notoriously difficult profession. "I like standing on top of mountains," she told one interviewer. To another she admitted: "I suppose I must have something to prove."

She explained the genesis of her passion in A Hard Day's Summer. It was — as

for so many mountaineers — a chance encounter with the book *The White Spider* by Heinrich Harrer, a harrowing but inspiring account of his first ascent of the North Face of the Eiger in 1938.

By the time she was 15 she was climbing every weekend, and by her early twenties had graduated from local gritstone outcrops to achieve a series of hard Alpine ascents. She was later to climb the Eiger while six months pregnant with her first child.

The small frame and open, almost childish, face concealed an absolute determination and a faith in her own abilities which sometimes rankled less committed climbers.

That she loved the mountains is not in question. But in her writing she often chose to express that passion on competitive terms, wondering what impression she made on other climbers she encountered on her solitary Alpine climbs, or in celebrating her own remarkable fitness.

Few mountaineers would deny that it is a selfish pursuit, attracting big egos — Hargreaves once compared her own to the size of Everest — and forceful personalities, often more focused on their own ambitions and internal demons than the effect their lifestyle has on their families.

The impact her calling had on her children troubled her, but it didn't stop her. "It is a self-centred, self-indulgent profession," she said on one occasion. "But as far as Tom and Kate are concerned, mummy has always climbed mountains. My husband looks after the children when I am away, so they always have that stability."

None the less, on earlier expeditions she would slip away while the children were playing so as not to upset them. And from the top of Everest she sent them a message by radio saying: "I'm on top of the world and I love you dearly."

According to her friends, she felt the separation worst in the Himalayas — a long way from home. On her first attempt to climb Everest last year she feared that frostbite was about to set in and, remembering the comment of a friend who asked her pointedly how she would feel about picking up her children "without fingers", she turned back — 450 yards from the top.

For a time, after the birth of her children, Hargreaves gave up climbing, but once they had reached the toddler stage she returned to the sport, determined to make it pay by achieving something remarkable. The K2 expedition was the culmination of a series of ascents organised and promoted with the thoroughness of a business plan.

The letter she sent out to potential sponsors was as bald as it was ambitious. She stated simply that in the course of two years she would solo the six great Alpine north faces, climbing alone and unroped. Then she would climb Everest, again alone and without oxygen, before tackling K2, again without oxygen.

Manchester-based outdoor clothing manufacturer Sprayway agreed to help, and Hargreaves and her family sold their house to spend a summer living in an old Land-Rover while she completed her Alpine odyssey.

In May, after her Everest feat, the company took out a series of advertisements in specialist mountaineering publications hailing her achievement as "the most important climb ever undertaken by a woman in the history of mountaineering". Last week, the company was quick to emphasise that its sponsorship had not put Hargreaves under undue pressure. "She was a completely free agent. There was no pressure on her at all," said a spokeswoman.

But a clue to the inner pressures that might have been driving her came from her husband. If she had succeeded, he said, "she would be at the beginning of her life as a celebrity. She could support the family for life. She would never have to do a climb again."

Earlier he had explained: "This is her job. It is how she makes a living. The fact that she has children is irrelevant."

Mountaineering at the highest levels of difficulty and altitude is a dangerous pursuit, and no mountain is more dangerous, or enticing to the cognoscent, than K2.

As a result, with individual, and sometimes commercial glory beckoning, the base camp there, in common with that at Everest, has in recent years become a pressure-cooker environment, sometimes encouraging the best to push too hard and go too far.

"Climbing has changed," says Julie Ann Clyma, who attempted K2 in 1993 with her partner Roger Payne. "In the old days, when the object was to get the expedition to the top, it was much more of a team effort. Now everyone is out to do it for themselves."

"You see people who have invested a lot of money and a year's planning. They feel they need to justify themselves. Commercialisation has also made a big change and if you are like Alison, trying to earn a living and become famous, it puts a terrible pressure on you. There is this feeling that you are only as good as your last mountain."

The fees to climb Everest and K2 are high. The Nepal authorities charge \$50,000 per expedition for Everest, while the Pakistan authorities charge \$10,000 for K2.

Roger Payne, general secretary of the British Mountaineering Council, is concerned that the need to generate large funds to climb on the highest mountains is distorting mountaineering's basic tenets.

"The system of high peak fees encourages people to buy into a collective rather than good friends who know each other well. High costs are forcing that change and the more expensive the mountain is, the greater the distortion. You could make that conclusion in this case on K2."

The precise details of what befell Hargreaves and her climbing companions will perhaps never be known. What is clear, though, is that the bad weather, for which K2 is so notorious, set in while she and the others were close to the summit.

For Alan Hinkes, who returned to Britain 10 days ago after climbing K2, the tragedy confirmed a premonition. He had, on the mountain, "Alison and I climbed together at first. Then we decided to change partners. Alison should have stuck with me, but instead she began climbing with an American expedition."

"The Americans were very pushy but I didn't feel they had very much 8,000-metre experience. To some extent that went for Alison, too. She had climbed Everest, but that doesn't qualify you for K2."

"When I came down from the summit I sat in my tent at Camp Four in the dark and said: 'Thank you — you know, to God or whoever — thank you for letting me down.' When I

got to base camp I spoke to a television station by satellite phone, and, to be honest, I said that I thought there was going to be a repetition of the tragedy in 1986 when Al Rouse and Julie Tullis died. I didn't want to hang around."

Rouse and Tullis, both British, were caught in four days of storms after reaching the summit and died at Camp Four.

On his way down the mountain, Hinkes met up with Hargreaves at Camp Two. "It was an emotional meeting. She congratulated me and said she wished she had been at the top with me."

Hinkes left after a storm at the end of July. "It was a huge fall of snow," he said. "I was walking out and there were avalanches and rock and mud slips everywhere. It would have been massively avalanche prone. The whole route is bloody dangerous."

Ten climbers left Camp Four, the highest, on Sunday morning, in separate groups, according to a number of reports quoting Scott Fischer, one of the American expedition. At 6 p.m., a radio call to base reported that Hargreaves, Rob Slater and the New Zealander had reached the summit.

On the way down to Camp Four, however, the weather rapidly deteriorated — a fine day can turn into a blizzard in minutes around K2 — and the climbers could be seen pinned to the mountain. When the weather cleared, one body was still visible, but not retrievable.

Kevin Cooney, one of the American team, said last week that after two weeks of bad weather Hargreaves had been about to abandon the project, but conditions improved and she and Slater had decided to make another attempt.

Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund Hillary, one of the first two men to climb Everest, who was on the mountain at the same time, was reported as suggesting that Hargreaves had pushed hard for several hours to continue.

"One still hopes," he husband said this weekend "but to be honest there was always very little hope. She climbed the mountain. She died in the spirit of what she was trying to achieve."

He at least had no doubts about whether his wife had lived up to her responsibilities. "A lot of women will miss her in the sense that she has shown them it is possible to do things they may have doubted they could do. If you want to do it, then do it. If you fail then at least you have failed trying."

The Observer.

Jordan, Israel sign accord

(Continued from page 1)

The issue was discussed.

After announcing their agreement, Mr. Kassar and Mr. Kassar added that a joint ad hoc panel would finalise the draft of the transport accord on Thursday. The draft will be submitted to the two ministers for their approval prior to formal presentation to the respective governments, Petra said.

An Israeli transport ministry statement said late Monday that the Aqaba airport would be expanded close to the borders and would have two terminals, one on each side of the frontier.

The statement said the airport would be managed jointly by the two countries. It added that Israel refused to accept a proposal to have direct flights between Aqaba and Tel Aviv.

There was no Jordanian confirmation of the points mentioned in the Israeli statement.

Also reviewed at Monday's meeting between Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres was Jordanian-Israeli coordination at the MENA summit, which is expected to be a turning point for the region's hopes for economic development in the newfound state of peace after

After signing the accord, Dr. Batayneh told reporters Jordan stood to gain much from the accord and that the Kingdom stood ready to offer health assistance and expertise to any party. That appeared to be a reference to a boycott of Israeli seeking cheap non-emergency treatment at Jordanian dental clinics.

Dr. Batayneh was asked whether the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), an umbrella organisation that groups all practising Jordanian doctors, would cooperate with the government in implementing the agreement on cooperation in health affairs with Israel. The minister replied that it was the personal choice of doctors, like any other citizen, to take own decisions in a democratic atmosphere and that the government would not interfere in such matters.

While some of the professional associations, unions and societies have their own views in regard to cooperation with Israel, the government is fully committed to the peace treaty with Israel, the minister said.

Mr. Sneh, the Israeli minister, underlined the importance of the agreement on cooperation in health and expressed hope that the two sides would soon launch joint action to benefit the peoples of the two countries. He also expressed hope that Jordanian and Israeli medical scientists would work together to fight contagious diseases in the region.

Saddam assails U.S. buildup

(Continued from page 1)

to United Nations monitors this month.

However, the data must still be reviewed and verified and there is virtually no chance that the punitive measures will be eased when they come up for review next month at the United Nations.

The United States has said it will maintain its hard line on sanctions until Iraq meets U.N. requirements on a variety of topics that include the return of Kuwaiti property taken during the Gulf war and a full accounting of more than 600 missing Kuwaitis.

A Kuwaiti official said Monday Iraq had raised hopes it might account for all 605 people reported missing during the occupation of Kuwait after admitting it had transferred 116 of them to Iraqi jails.

Du'ail Al Anzi said he not only expects to meet Iraqi delegates on Tuesday at the first such talks on the border but also to learn more about the missing after Baghdad added 43 names to its list of 73 at a meeting this month in Geneva.

However, the fate of the 116 prisoners on the list remains unknown.

Also fueling optimism on the prisoners is Iraq's new cooperation with the U.N. disarmament commission, said Mr. Anzi, head of the national committee for prisoners of war and missing persons affairs.

Washington has made a solution to both problems among key conditions for ending the sanctions on Iraq. "I think the circumstances are different now," Mr. Anzi said, recalling how Baghdad recently released secrets on

the Gulf war to free Kuwait and that its fate has not been known since," former Iraqi soldiers who fled to Jordan told the newspapers.

Several hundred prisoners in the Basra prison — 400 according to the Arab Times and 450 according to Al-Siyasah — were sent to Baghdad before the uprising.

Sources in Amman also said Iraqi President Saddam was planning an "initiative" on the prisoners.

Kuwait says 605 people, including 550 Kuwaitis and eight women, were captured during the occupation and taken to Iraqi jails.

Lieutenant-General Hassan, the defector, said Iraq was revealing all its secrets on its banned weapons of mass destruction to the United Nations.

"Baghdad has revealed a huge amount of information and it is in the process of handing over the rest," Gen. Hassan told the Arabic weekly Al Wasat.

It was the first time Gen. Hassan — considered the architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programmes — made a positive comment about Baghdad since he defected.

Gen. Hassan also said Iraq had set up contacts with Israel.

"Baghdad recently revealed all information, and if there is any yet to be given I am convinced of the importance of divulging everything on weapons of mass destruction," Gen. Hassan told the London-based newspaper.

"With regard to conventional weapons it is not up to me to reveal anything on this subject. It concerns our army and we don't have to reveal anything to anybody," he said.

Gen. Hassan told Al Wasat that Baghdad began to establish contacts with Israel in 1987, initially through a direction of a U.S. bank who was of Iraqi origin and named Abbud.

"These contacts took place in Egypt and were interrupted in 1988," he said. Recent contacts took place through Barzan al Tikriti, President Saddam's half-brother and Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Gen. Hassan said.

Iraq and Israel both denied reports of contacts last year.

Gen. Hassan also said Iraq had contacts with militant organisations, though he denied reports that the head of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, Abu Nidal, was in

Baghdad.

"These ties have continued with some Arab and Palestinian organisations but they have been cut with Abu Nidal's movement," he said.

Meanwhile, eight ships carrying U.S. weapons have arrived in the Gulf and more are heading to the waterway as a part of an American military buildup in the region following the fresh tension over Iraq, a U.S. navy official said.

U.S. tanks and armoured vehicles on manoeuvres in Kuwait will hold their first live fire exercise in the desert on Wednesday following several days of routine maintenance and alignment of weapon sights, U.S. army officers said.

Israeli moves threaten peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

and the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics in Arab East Jerusalem.

The offices have four days to close down or be shut.

Palestinians said the institutions were not part of the Palestinian Authority.

PBC head Radwan Abu Ayyash insisted the closure order affected his private office. The official PBC office is in the West Bank town of Ramallah. He said the move was a result of right-wing pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"It's completely against the agreement, especially that those three centres are very old centres, (from) even before our Palestinian Authority and our arrival here in Gaza," Mr. Arafat told reporters in Gaza City.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal gave the three offices four days to shut down

King visits Oman today

(Continued from page 1)

al and economic fields.

King Hussein and government officials have also recently described as normal

ties with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The King visited Qatar earlier this year for talks with the new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Saudi economy poised for slight growth in 1995

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's economy will grow only slightly in 1995 due to lower government expenditure and a decline in oil prices in the second half of the year, bankers in the kingdom predicted Monday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) will rise by around 0.5 per cent compared with earlier projections of a one per cent decline, they said.

"We had predicted a negative growth in the Saudi economy for 1995 but we later revised the forecast to a positive growth after oil prices increased," one banker told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

"Now as oil prices retreated, we expect the economy to grow by around 0.5 per cent in nominal terms," he said.

Bankers said the growth was expected for the overall GDP as the government sector would likely recede this year due to lower spending. But they noted the private sector was expected to increase by around three per cent in real terms.

It would be second year running that the public sector records negative growth while the private sector continues to gain momentum.

In 1994, the private sector surged by nearly five per cent but a downturn in the public sector depressed the overall economy in nominal terms by around 0.8 per cent to \$120 billion from \$121 billion in 1993. This was mainly because oil prices fell to \$15.5 from \$16.33 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia controls more than a quarter of the world's proven crude reserves and its production of 10 million barrels per day accounts for nearly 12 per cent of global oil supplies. Oil exports still provide more than 80 per cent of its income and a deterioration in oil prices has sharply reduced its economy and added persistent deficits in its budget and balance of payments.

This has forced Riyadh to announce reforms similar to those prescribed by the International Monetary Fund for countries with ailing economies.

The reforms include privatisation, cutting subsidies, rationalising state expenditure and increasing fees on government services. The kingdom has staved off income taxes to avert a repetition of mass resignations a decade ago.

"We expect better growth rates in Saudi Arabia in the coming years as the private sector will continue to grow given its huge potential and the government's trend to reduce its role," a Saudi banker said.

"The private sector now accounts for around 45 per cent of the GDP and the level will largely increase in the next few years when privatisations are carried out. The sector has also started to reduce reliance on state spending and to develop its own viable development base. You can say that in the near future, the private sector will become the engine of domestic growth," the banker said.

Bankers estimated that the Saudi private sector, the wealthiest in the Middle East, repatriated around \$40 billion from its overseas assets in the two years that followed the Gulf war.

They said capital return had slowed down over the past two years due to uncertainty in the Saudi economy, but they expected it to pick up with the latest cabinet shake up and the announcement of a new five-year plan.

The sixth plan, announced in July, is the most radical development plan in Saudi history as it focuses on reforms and expansion of the non-oil sector. It set an annual growth target of 3.8 per cent, although bankers said it forecast lower spending, estimated at around \$200 billion.

The British Barclay's Bank had drawn a better outlook for the Saudi economy, projecting a 1.5 per cent growth in 1995. But its projection was released when oil prices were as high as \$17.5, which it said had boosted the kingdom's earnings by nearly \$2.3 billion in the first five months.

Over the past few weeks, oil prices have slipped to below \$16 and bankers expect them to average between \$16 and \$17 for 1995.

"The oil sector still contributes by nearly one third of the Saudi GDP. Any upward or downward price move will naturally affect growth," a banker said.



TWO Bangladeshi women labourers, push a basket of earth at a construction site in Dhaka's Aminbazar suburb receiving a daily wage of 50 taka (about \$1) each. They are among hundreds of poor women, mostly from rural areas, who contribute hard work at construction sites around the

expanding Bangladeshi capital of eight million people. Women's issues will be discussed at the Non-Governmental Organisation Forum and the Fourth World Women's Conference between Aug. 30-Sept. 15 in Beijing (AFP photo)

UAE imports double in 4 years

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) imports have nearly doubled since 1990 due to an economic upturn and a surge in reexports to Iran and other countries, an official report has showed.

From 42.5 billion dirhams (\$11.58 billion) in 1990, the imports soared to around 80 billion dirhams (\$21.8 billion) in 1994 while reexports jumped from 12.8 billion dirhams (\$3.48 billion) to 32 billion dirhams (\$8.7 billion), the central bank said.

The bulk of the reexports, mainly food, cars and electronics, went to neighbouring Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and to India, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Taiwan.

"In 1994, around 43 per cent of the imports came from Japan, China and other Asian nations while 40 per cent came from European countries and the rest from American countries," the central bank said.

Total exports also increased from 79 billion dirhams (\$21.5 billion) in 1990 to 92.8 billion dirhams

(\$25.28 billion) in 1994. The surge in imports slashed the trade surplus from 37 billion dirhams (\$10 billion) to 12.8 billion dirhams (\$3.48 billion).

But a balance of payment surplus leapt from 290 million dirhams (\$79 million) to 2.36 billion dirhams (\$643 million) in the same period mainly due to a decline in remittances from around 18.8 billion dirhams (\$5.12 billion) to 12.5 billion dirhams (\$3.4 billion).

The report showed crude oil exports plunged from 54.5 billion dirhams (\$14.8 billion) in 1990 to 43.1 billion dirhams (\$11.74 billion) in 1994 due to a decline in oil prices. But gas earnings rose from 4.5 billion dirhams (\$1.22 billion) to 5.1 billion dirhams (\$1.38 billion).

Income from domestic and overseas investment grew from 7.6 billion dirhams (\$2.07 billion) to 8.25 billion dirhams (\$2.24 billion).

Meanwhile, the UAE is maintaining high spending on development projects despite a decline in national income caused by weak oil prices.

Non-OPEC states weaken oil price effort — Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Non-OPEC producers are undermining attempts to boost oil prices by failing to respond to pleas for market cooperation with OPEC, Kuwait's oil minister said in remarks published Monday.

"There must be cooperation and coordination, between producers inside and outside the organisation to stabilise the oil market and to allow prices to rise to suitable levels," Abdul Mohsen Al Mudej was quoted as saying by Al Watan daily.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has not changed its production ceiling since September 1993 and often criticises non-OPEC producers for pumping up the volume and thus thwarting its efforts to boost prices.

Global demand has grown by two million barrels per day (b/d) in the past two years but most of that has been grabbed by an extra 1.7 million b/d of output from producers outside OPEC.

Sheikh Mudej said lack of a response from non-OPEC members to requests by OPEC to cooperate on production was devaluing OPEC's attempts at curbing

its excess production.

"The organisation's setting of a specific production ceiling and the commitment of its countries to their quotas is offset by an increase in production by big producers outside the organisation which absorbs any increase in demand," he said.

"Many meetings were held between the two sides but unfortunately there is no response from some of those producers, especially the North Sea ones, to the organisation's calls about preserving production levels," he said.

Sheikh Mudej is a member of OPEC's quota compliance committee, which will meet next month in Venezuela before a three-day conference of oil producer and consumer

countries. The committee was formed in 1993 to monitor OPEC adherence to its output ceiling of 24.52 million b/d.

Sheikh Mudej reiterated Kuwait would press for a 200,000 b/d rise in its 2.0 million b/d OPEC quota in the event that the organisation raises its overall ceiling at its ministerial meeting in November in Vienna.

Meanwhile, a Qatari oil official said oil produces in and outside OPEC should come to an agreement on market share but failing that the oil group should consider changing its production ceiling next year.

"OPEC should first look at improving prices. We also want a better share of the market. Qatar favours an

agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC countries on market share," the official said.

"If that fails then we should consider changing the output ceiling in 1996," he told Reuters, but would not say if Qatar supported lowering or increasing the ceiling.

OPEC has a 24.52 million b/d production ceiling that has not been changed since September 1993 even though economic growth has added two million b/d of demand to

world markets in the past two years.

In late June, OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna hinted they may increase output to recapture lost market share, igniting pressure on oil markets.

But traders and analysts say oil prices could plunge if OPEC raises its production ceiling.

Surging non-OPEC output and the current low oil price leave OPEC with few options, they say.

"We should all agree to support prices at the OPEC meeting. At the same time, OPEC should look out for its market," said the Qatari oil official.

Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah has said producers outside OPEC should take responsibility for protecting oil prices, and help stabilise the market.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Adding new interests is wise provided they can be nicely combined with present activities which are worthwhile to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be more modern in dealing with your mate and get better results. Strive for more good will and happiness with your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more cooperative with partners and with worthwhile persons they may introduce to you. Make intelligent plans for the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be more speedy in handling your regular tasks and forget all that procrastination. Be happy at home in the evening with your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Find out what your loved ones expect of you and try to combine past benefits with a new course. Entertain those you feel can help you to progress.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Find some novel way of getting your fundamental affairs in better order, but don't give up what has proven workable in the past.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You like to analyse everything, but you have to make decisions today, which are important towards your actions in relation to your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study your financial status better and see what can be done to improve it considerably. Look to older persons for advice and assistance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study your talents better and know how to make them operate more efficiently. Get in touch with the powerful and influential people.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Have discussions with experts and get the know-how so that you can advance in your career. Your mate can be helpful to you today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Bigwigs who are friends can also help you in your personal life, if you ask for assistance now. Gain more popularity from those close to you.

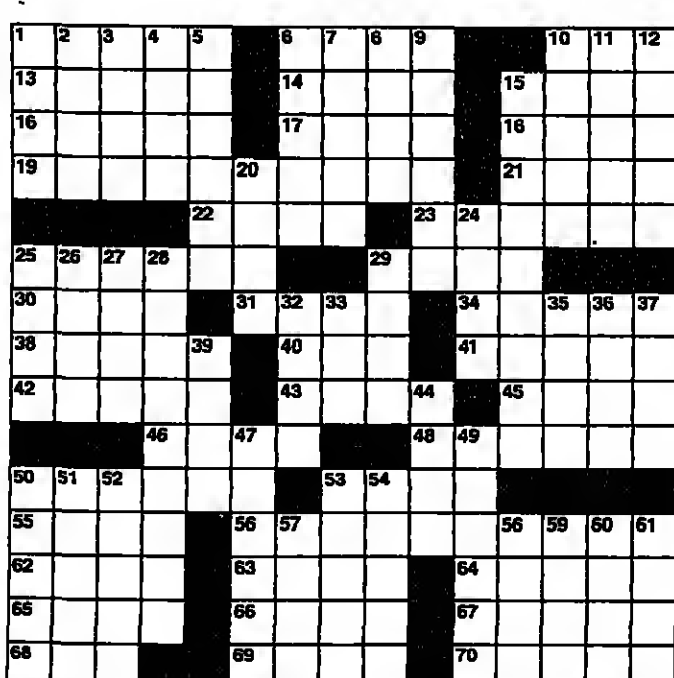
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you do exactly what bigwigs desire of you, you gain big benefits now. Be willing to accept and use new conditions to your advantage.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

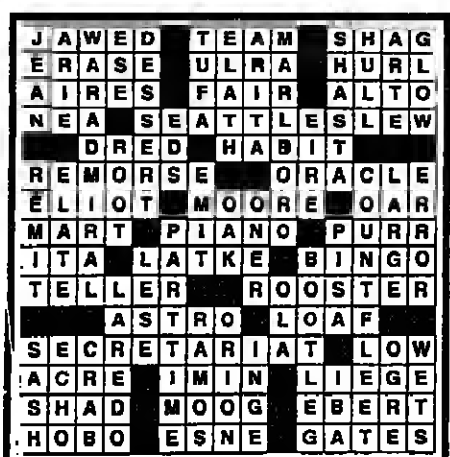
ACROSS

- 1 Amino and citric
- 6 Way up or down
- 10 Auricle
- 13 Spring bloom
- 14 Author Ludwig
- 15 Relinquish
- 16 Language of the Emerald Isle
- 17 Catfish catcher
- 18 Spoken
- 19 In a tranquil way
- 21 Hoarfrost
- 22 Ascended
- 23 Hemingway
- 25 Cup and —
- 29 Factual
- 30 Greek peak
- 31 Cut
- 34 Inflexible
- 38 Active people
- 40 Mine find
- 41 Big cat
- 42 — Fools' Day
- 43 Walking stick
- 45 Only
- 46 Dollar
- 48 Small
- 49 Utter rapidly
- 53 R — Roger
- 55 — in one's bonnet
- 56 Johnny
- 62 Composer
- 63 Bartok
- 64 Cowboy flick
- 65 TV actor, Ken
- 66 Camelot lady
- 67 Winged
- 68 Pipe joint
- 69 Fathers
- 70 Postpone



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



DOWN

- 1 Eagerly
- 2 Enriching
- 3 Remedy
- 4 Pelvic bones
- 5 Phonograph record
- 6 Area of influence
- 7 Kind of puzzle
- 8 Soap plant
- 9 Factory

9 Performer

- 10 Uneasily
- 11 Presidential name
- 12 Sublease
- 15 Certain musician
- 20 Stronghold
- 24 Corrode
- 25 Soft drink
- 26 Drenched
- 27 Consumer
- 28 Allantia sea
- 29 Federal agents
- 32 — 'n' roll
- 33 A Gerstwin
- 35 — "Rhythm"
- 36 Lost one's balance
- 37 Liberale
- 39 Twist sideways
- 44 Lamb's pseudonym
- 47 Bragged
- 49 Encroachment
- 50 Ruffled shirt
- 51 Poplar

52 Picture falsely

- 53 Cautious
- 54 Molts
- 57 Reporter Barrett
- 58 Valley

59 Printing type:

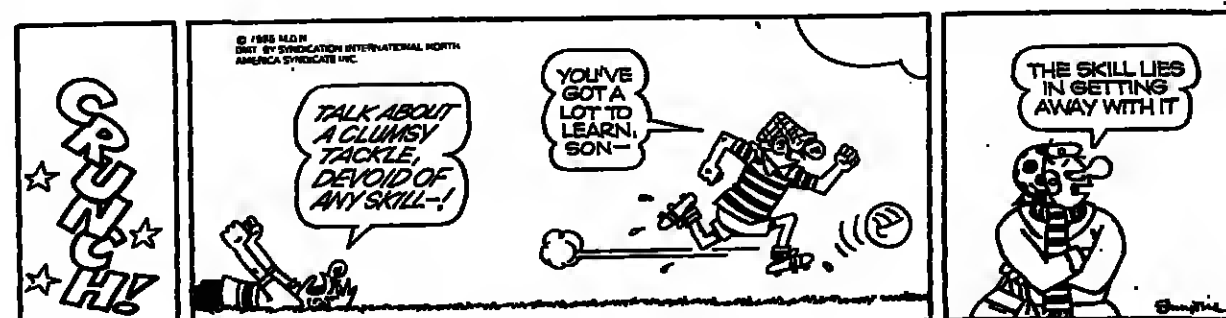
- 60 — precedent (be first)
- 61 Playing card

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"I discovered your secret password: Myhusbandisaweirdo!"

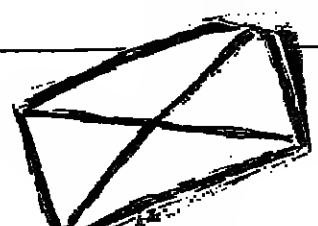
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



U.S. banks swept by merger fever

NEW YORK (AFP) — Two of the largest U.S. banks, Chemical Banking Corp. and Chase Manhattan Corp., announced Monday they were merging to create the biggest bank in the United States amid a wave of such deals between financial institutions here.

The Chemical-Chase merger deal, involving a \$10 billion share swap, will also create the fourth largest bank worldwide with assets of some \$300 billion.

Meanwhile, in another example of the quickening pace of deals between financial companies here, National City Corp., a financial services group, Monday said it was buying Integra Financial Corp. for \$2.1 billion in a stock swap.

National City Corp. with \$35 billion in assets, operates banks and other services pri-

marily in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, while Integra, with \$15 billion in assets, operates banks and other services mostly in Pennsylvania.

With at least six mergers among the top 50 U.S. banks this year, U.S. financial institutions, spurred on by attempts to reduce costs and expand nationwide, have been consolidating as never before.

"The financial services industry is in the midst of the greatest period of consolidation in its history, and we are seizing upon a truly unparalleled opportunity to create a premier global financial services company," Chemical's chairman and chief executive officer, Walter Shipley said Monday.

Only this summer, First Union and First Fidelity and First Chicago Corp. and NBD Bancorp. Inc., have

also announced they were merging.

"This is a strategic merger. It is a merger, not a sale of the company," Thomas Labrecque, Chase Manhattan chairman and chief executive officer, told a news conference here.

Wall Street welcomed news of the deal with Chemical shares up 4 7/8 at 59 1/4 and Chase of 6 at 59 in mid-morning trading.

The merger, hammered out over a month and approved Sunday by the boards of directors, is still subject to ratification by shareholders and federal and state regulatory authorities.

It is expected to be completed by March 1996.

The new bank will retain the name of Chase Manhattan, a name better known both nationally and internationally, Mr. Shipley said.

The new bank's capital base will be some \$20 billion and some 25 million customers in the United States.

The banks said estimated annual cost savings from the merger would be \$1.5 billion, around 16 per cent of combined 1995 operating expenses.

The savings would be achieved within three years, "by consolidating certain operations and eliminating redundant costs."

The chairman told a news conference that savings would entail elimination of some 12,000 of the combined banks' 75,000 jobs in 51 countries, on a proportional basis between the two institutions and most of them through attrition.

One Chase Manhattan share would be swapped for 1.04 shares of Chemical. This

values Chase at around \$56.55 per share, a slight premium on the bank's current share price of \$53.

"We expect the new Chase to achieve double-digit earnings per share growth, an efficiency ratio in the low 50s and a return on equity of 18 per cent or better," according to Mr. Shipley, who will be chairman and chief executive officer of the new bank.

The current wave of bank mergers and takeovers has been accelerated by legislation adopted last year which allows U.S. financial institutions to buy others across state lines as of September and enabling banks to set up interstate branches in two years' time.

The Wall Street Journal said that with over 10,000 banks in the United States there was still plenty of room for further mergers.

And a recent study by Deloitte and Touche, a New York-based consulting and accounting firm, predicted that over the next 10 years, half of all U.S. banks branches will close, with the disappearance of 450,000 of the industry's 2.8 million jobs.

Other reasons for mergers include action by shareholders anxious to reap a profit while stocks are high — they have risen by more than a third this year — and before their companies have to fight off hostile take-over bids.

Companies release mid-year financial results

FOLLOWING ARE mid-year financial results of some public shareholding companies:

- 1) The Jordan Dairy Company recorded sales of JD 2.6 million and a profit estimated at JD 254,497.
- 2) The Jordan Himeh Mineral Company earned JD 65,803 and a profit of about JD 34,810.
- 3) The Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) increased pretax profit by 16.7 per cent to JD 1.52 million.
- Net interest earned amounted to JD 1.8 million while other earnings totalled JD 1.1 million compared to JD 1.7 million and JD 0.9 million as of June 30, 1994. Total assets increased by JD 2.6 million to reach JD 156.9 million as of June 30, 1995.
- 4) The technical departments of the Arab Life and Accident Insurance Company boosted profit from JD 230,000 to JD 350,000. However, income from investments declined from JD 194,000 to JD 144,000 and other earnings fell sharply from JD 94,000 to JD 38,000. As such, the total net income as of June 30, 1995 amounted to JD 0.53 million compared to JD 0.52 million as of June 30, 1994.
- 5) The Universal Insurance Company recorded a loss of JD 24,318.
- 6) The General Arab Insurance Company posted a JD 83,353 profit.
- 7) The United Middle East and Commodore Hotels achieved a profit of JD 255,526.
- 8) The Universal Modern Industries for Manufacturing Vegetable Oil generated JD 711,386 profit from sales amounting to JD 19.7 million.
- 9) The Jordan Worsteds Mills Company made JD 1.5 million profit from JD 5.7 million of sales.
- 10) The Arab Paper Converting and Trading Company registered JD 233,944 profit from JD 989,000 of sales.
- 11) The Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company (Al Intaj) reported sales at JD 8.8 million and profit at JD 345,188.
- 12) The Vehicles Owners Federation Company showed a JD 122,974 profit.
- 13) The Jordan Press Foundation/Al Ra'i earned JD 4.3 million in sales and advertisements and its profit amounted to JD 1.4 million.
- 14) The Arab International Company for Investment and Education earned JD 5.5 million with a net profit at JD 1.4 million.
- 15) The National Portfolio Securities Company recorded a JD 242,121 loss.
- 16) The Central General Trading and Storage Company received JD 864,600 from sales and showed a net profit of JD 59,244.
- 17) The Arab International Insurance Company posted a JD 179,065 profit.
- 18) The Middle East for Development and Trade Company made a JD 1,286 profit.
- 19) The Middle East Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries and Medical Appliances Company had pre-operational earnings of JD 238,247 (Al Dustour + Al Aswak).

Japan sets plan to wind up failed credit union

TOKYO (R) — Japanese authorities Monday announced a \$2.7 billion plan, including government aid, to wind up Tokyo credit union Cosmo Shingyo Kumiai, which failed this summer after a run on its deposits.

The Bank of Japan (BOJ), the Tokyo City government and Japan's deposit insurance body pledged aid to the scheme, while private financial institutions were to forgive a total of 63 billion yen (\$656 million) in loans to Cosmo.

Depositors would get their money back, but large depositors would be asked to give up some interest on their money.

"To protect the stability of the financial system in Japan, financial institutions have de-

cided to cooperate in the scheme," a senior financial ministry official told reporters.

The plan is expected to be a model for dealing with future collapses of Japan's small financial institutions, struggling under bad debt inherited from the collapse of the late 1980s "bubble economy" of inflated asset and property prices.

Cosmo is one of nearly 400 Japanese credit unions which take deposits and lend money, mainly to members. They have been hit particularly hard by Japan's huge amount of bad loans, which authorities estimate totals 40 trillion yen (\$416 billion) and private analysts say could be much larger.

The Tokyo government,

which supervises local credit unions, suspended part of Cosmo's operations on July 31 after media reports about the credit union's financial troubles triggered a run on deposits.

The plan drawn up by the city government, the BOJ and the finance ministry followed a month of tough negotiations over who would take responsibility for cleaning up the financial mess and who would bear the pain of writing off loans.

Under the plan, Cosmo would be wound up and its business transferred to Tokyo Kyodo Bank, a special bank established with government support earlier this year to wind up two other credit unions.

Minoru Masubuchi, director of the BOJ's financial and payment system department, said the overall cost of the Cosmo scheme would be 260 billion yen (\$2.7 billion), and he hoped it would be completed within five years.

The BOJ would provide about 20 billion yen (\$208 million) through long-term, uncollateralised loans to help cover Cosmo's losses, while the Tokyo government would also give some 20 billion yen.

The Deposit Insurance Corp of Japan, which insures depositors using premiums from private banks, would give about 110 billion yen (\$1.14 billion) in the scheme. Among other aid, credit unions around Japan would stump up 18 billion yen (\$187 million).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
JORDANIAN BANK, CREDIT UNION - JERUSALEM				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 28/08/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	580	129,580	222.500	223.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2050	8040	4.500	4.550
BANK OF JORDAN	2320	7916	4.400	4.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1850	2239	1.210	1.210
THE HOUSING BANK	1600	9172	5.740	5.730
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	850	958	1.140	1.120
JORDAN ZILBANK	3964	14894	3.770	3.750
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1348	5536	4.160	4.110
RESERVE BANK	1400	5418	3.870	2.870
WEST KHALA SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1500	4965	3.480	3.310
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	25490	28012	1.090	1.870
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1782	8620	5.450	5.400
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2850	3978	1.370	1.560
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	47208	228226	INDEX NUMBER: 183.60	CHANGE: +0.301
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1050	2785	2.890	2.890
INSURANCE SECTOR	1120	3008	INDEX NUMBER: 133.08	CHANGE: +0.144
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	27972	46459	1.630	1.620
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	200	550	2.770	2.750
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	6850	74624	3.150	2.100
HOUSING EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	650	650	9.480	9.470
JORDAN PAPER FOUNDATION / ALRAI	1156	11367	9.850	9.850
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	2750	5815	2.160	2.100
ARAB JER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	10083	32579	3.220	3.220
ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	7845	7845	1.340	1.330
SERVICES SECTOR	55711	118816	INDEX NUMBER: 125.89	CHANGE: +0.432
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	8980	33060	3.690	3.680
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	880	2638	3.010	3.000
THE ARAB POTASH	850	1250	5.000	5.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1580	14970	9.480	9.470
MOLEN INDUSTRIES	400	614	1.530	1.530
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	1000	7600	7.600	7.600
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	6450	22299	5.040	5.000
JORDAN CEMENT TRUST	9038	53237	5.950	5.910
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	700	500	2.530	2.500
THE PUBLIC MINTING	700	2100	3.000	3.000
SPINNING & WEAVING	200	380	1.960	1.900
TEXTILES	100	100	2.260	2.280
DAR AL BASA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3290	24780	7.510	7.510
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	700	3615	5.150	5.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16500	8005	4.900	4.880
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	750	1242	1.360	1.360
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	5663	5840	1.040	1.030
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	750	302	2.050	2.020
JORDAN WOOLCOOL INDUSTRIES	250	268	1.090	1.070
UNIVERSAL CEMENT INDUSTRIES	2450	2450	3.500	3.500
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	1000	1550	1.550	1.550
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1600	3454	2.180	2.140
MANHATTAN INVESTMENT	500	750	1.500	1.500
UNIVERSAL HOUSING INDUSTRIES	750	2421	3.270	3.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6500	12572	2.030	2.000
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	2530	4739	1.690	1.680
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	8400	11363	1.330	1.320
UNION CEMENT CO. - JORDANIAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	750	1523	2.040	2.030
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	78494	233434	INDEX NUMBER: 126.33	CHANGE: +0.511
GRAND TOTAL	183830	583604	INDEX NUMBER: 155.14	CHANGE: +0.032
NO. OF LISTED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		143755		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		147701		

Financial Jordan Times				
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York	Tokyo	London	Amman
US Dollar	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
British Pound	1.5595	1.5610	1.5610	1.5610
Deutsche Mark	1.4708	1.4682	1.4682	1.4682
Swiss Franc	1.4090	1.4107	1.4107	1.4107
French Franc	5.8746	5.8665	5.8665	5.8665
Japanese Yen	96.65	96.45	96.45	96.45
European Currency Unit	1.8750	1.8755	1.8755	1.8755

Precious Metals				
Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	12 MTN	1995
U.S. Dollar	5.48	5.64	5.64	5.64
British Pound	6.43	6.59	6.59	6.59
Deutsche Mark	4.06	4.06	4.06	4.06
Swiss Franc	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
French Franc	5.50	5.42	5.42	5.42
Japanese Yen	6.64	6.62	6.62	6.62
European Currency Unit	5.16	5.16	5.16	5.16

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Currency	Mid	Offer	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.7110	0.7130	0.7110	0.7130
British Pound	1.1023	1.1078	1.1023	1.1078
Deutsche Mark	0.4837	0.4861	0.4837	0.4861
Swiss Franc	0.3874	0.3883	0.3874	0.3883
French Franc	0.1293	0.1304	0.1293	0.1304
Japanese Yen	0.7345	0.7402	0.7345	0.7402
Dutch Guilder	0.4394	0.4398	0.4394	0.4398
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0434	0.0440	0.0434	0.0440
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Order Conversion				
Currency	Mid	Offer	Buy	Sell
Bahraini Dinar	1.8750	1.8878	1.8750	1.8878
Lebanese Lira	0.044100	0.044500	0.044100	0.044500
Saudi Riyal	0.1893	0.1928	0.1893	0.1928
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.8950	2.9370	2.8950	2.9370
Qatari Riyal	0.1841	0.1925	0.1841	0.1925
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180	0.2000	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.8427	1.8600	1.8427	1.8600
UAE Dirham	0.1950	0.1967	0.1950	0.1967
Greek Drachma	0.2860	0.5100	0.2860	0.5100
Cypriot Pound	1.5880	1.5700	1.5880	1.5700

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Imelda welcomes return of Swiss money to Manila

MANILA (AFP) — Imelda Marcos Monday welcomed a Swiss judge's decision to send back to Manila nearly \$500 million of the fortune said to have been amassed in secret accounts by her late husband.

But lawyers for around 10,000 people who suffered rights abuses under the iron rule of Ferdinand Marcos may try to block the move.

"I'm happy if there is a decision to bring the so-called Marcos assets in the Philippines," the country's former first lady said in a statement.

"Ever since the death of my husband... I have been concerned in the implementation of his last will and testament to give his wealth to the Filipino people," added Imelda Marcos, who is appealing against a 24 year jail term for corruption.

Swiss magistrate Peter Cosandey said Monday he had ordered the transfer to the Philippines of about \$500 million the Philippine authorities have proved was hoarded in Swiss banks by the former president.

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A November 1994 file photo of Tottenham took over as manager of the London club. Hotspurs Chairman Alan Sugar (left) and Sugar is reported to be wanting to sell the club for \$50 million (AFP photo). Gerry Francis on the day Francis officially took over as manager of the club for \$80 million (AFP photo).

'Sugar threatens to sell Spurs'

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham Hotspur appeared to be heading towards crisis following a newspaper report on Monday that under-fire chairman Alan Sugar wants to sell the club for \$50 million (£30 million). Sugar, whose side have managed just one point and two goals this season after selling star players Jürgen Klinsmann, Gică Popescu and Nick Barmby, told the Sun newspaper his wish to sell was no idle threat.

"I'm sick of all the aggravation, I'm not going to stand the abuse any longer. I'm absolutely serious about selling," Sugar told the paper.

The electronics entrepreneur has been involved in a long-running feud with England coach Terry Venables. The two men teamed up to rescue the club from a financial crisis but subsequently fell out.

But potential buyers would seem to be thin on the ground, as shown by former manager Venables's failed attempts to find backers in the club's bid to take control in 1991.

In a thinly veiled jibe at the former White Hart Lane manager, whose business interests include a West End drinking club, Sugar is quoted in the Sun as saying:

"Let them get someone else in, an entrepreneur, a wine bar owner with \$50 million. If anyone thinks they have got the money and could do a better job than me, then come forward."

"Give me back the money I'm owed, purchase my shares and I'll be off for the benefit... of the club."

Sugar's apparent eagerness to quit follows reports that Spurs fans' former hero Klins-

mann blamed the chairman's lack of ambition for his decision to leave for Bayern Munich after just one season.

The 31-year-old Germany international, who finished last season by being voted Footballer of the Year, was said to have become disillusioned after Sugar and manager Gerry Francis had failed to answer his question about whether money would be spent on strengthening the team for this season.

Klinsmann reportedly said of Sugar: "He only ever talks about money. He never talks about the game."

"I would say there is a big question mark over whether Sugar's heart is in the club and in football. The big question is what he likes more, the business or the football?"

But Sugar is quoted by the Sun as saying: "Klinsmann says only 1.5 million was available for new players — what rubbish."

"At a board meeting in May it was agreed that 7.5 million was there for Gerry to spend and it's in the minutes."

Francis spent 4.5 million pounds replacing Klinsmann with Crystal Palace's Chris Armstrong in the close season along with free transfer acquisition defender Clive Wilson from QPR.

The former QPR manager is used to buying players under financial restrictions though he still has just over five million pounds available for new players.

Sugar complained before the season began that transfer fees should be regulated by the Football Association, although he later withdrew his remarks.

Rubin beats Maleeva in final

MAHWAH, N.J. (R) — Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria got off to a good start and then faltered as American Chanda Rubin came back to score a 6-7 (6-8) 6-0, 6-3 upset victory in the pathmark tennis classic final Sunday at the crossroads corporate centre.

Rubin, the sixth seed who is ranked No. 16 in the world, reeled off nine straight games to 3-1 in the third set against an error-prone Maleeva.

"I played very well in the first set and came back in the third," said the third-seeded Maleeva, who holds a No. 7 ranking. The match did not hurt my confidence going into the U.S. Open. I had some good wins here."

In the semifinals, she beat second-seeded Jana Novotna of Czech Republic.

Rubin, 19, earned a \$20,000 first-place prize and Maleeva, 20, collected \$14,000. Maleeva had scored two victories this season over Rubin to gain a 4-1 lead in their rivalry.

Maleeva, whose sister, Manuela, beat Sylvia Hanika for the tournament title in 1987, made numerous unforced errors. Her shot selection was careless, including a match ending drop shot that failed to clear the net.

"Sometimes, I just don't think, sometimes I don't watch the ball," said Maleeva. It's as simple as that."

The first set went on serve until Rubin cracked a forehand cross-court winner to break for a 6-5 lead. But Maleeva broke right back to 6-6 on a forehand service return off a second serve.

Maleeva took the tie-breaker on her fourth set point when Rubin netted a forehand.

Seles returns to U.S. Open site in charity match

FLUSHING, N.Y. (R) — Monica Seles of the United States made her long-awaited return to the stadium court at the U.S. Open on Sunday, but it was a relaxed affair as she competed in the fourth annual Arthur Ashe AIDS Tennis Challenge.

It was Seles's first appearance at the Open since she was stabbed on court in Hamburg on April 30, 1993. Seles won back-to-back U.S. Open titles in 1991 and '92 and was ranked number one in the world prior to the stabbing.

She has been given a co-number one ranking on the WTA Tour computer for her first six tournaments or 12

months back on the tour — whichever comes first — and is seeded second at the U.S. Open behind top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany.

"It felt great to go out on the stadium (court)," said Seles, who partnered entertainer Bill Cosby for a "hit-and-giggle" with opponents Tracy Austin and basketball star Chris Mullin to support fund-raising for the Arthur Ashe Endowment for the defeat of AIDS.

"I always get very nervous playing pro-celebrities because I don't know how hard I should hit the ball. So I was more worried about that."

The more emotional comeback for Seles will be when she plays her first-round match against Romania's unseeded Ruxandra Dragomir on the stadium court.

"The electricity that comes off the crowd — there's no place like it," Seles said.

"But I still have to play a match so I'll have to calm down and get used to it."

"Everything is still very new," Seles said of her return to tournament competition. "I'm trying to remember how to get ready for a match. Physically I'm not in the shape I want to be. But I have to accept that and make the best of it."

Seles had little difficulty summoning back her form in Toronto a week ago when she won the Canadian Open title while giving up just 14 games all week. Many were surprised at her performance, but Martina Navratilova said it was to be expected. Navratilova faced Seles in Seles's first competitive match in Atlantic City at the end of July, losing in straight sets.

"I was impressed," Navratilova said of Seles's performance in Toronto. "But I was definitely not surprised. You just have to be across the net from her to know she's back."

European Swimming Championships Pankratov spearheads European charge towards Atlanta

VIENNA (R) — A world record for Denis Pankratov and five gold medals for Franziska Van Almsick highlighted the European Swimming Championships and pointed the way to battles ahead at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Pankratov charted new realms in butterfly swimming by eclipsing the oldest world record in the men's book and demonstrating a spectacular 'submarine' dimension to the stroke.

The 21-year-old Russian swam the first 25 metres under water on his way to slicing 0.52 seconds from the 100 metres butterfly world mark of American Pablo Morales which had resisted all challenges since June 1986. He recorded 52.32 seconds.

He stayed under even longer, surfacing after 35 metres, when he clocked an astonishing 51.73 seconds split to guide Russia to a European record in the 4x100 medley relay which closed the 11-day championships on Sunday.

Pankratov might have bettered his own 200 butterfly world record but the weather was unusually cold during that session at the open-air stadionbad and he fell just short.

Van Almsick botched the heats of her 200 metres freestyle specialty and suffered a rare reverse when she was pipped by Sweden's Linda Olsson in the 50 freestyle.

Burdened by expectations of a record seven golds and a surfeit of publicity, the 17-year-old Berliner still collected five golds and a silver to add to the six golds and one silver she scooped at the 1993 European Championships in Sheffield, England.

Her 11 European golds, albeit including six in relays, are bettered only by the 13 of fellow German Michael Gross.

Failure to retain the 50 freestyle title prompted Van Almsick to say she might give the event up and concentrate more on the 400 in which triumphed in her first at the distance in a major international championships.

Posting the best times in the world this year at 100, 200 and 400 freestyle in the stadionbad, she looks well armed for further showdowns with the Chinese and Americans in Atlanta.

The 200 time was not far short of the world record set when she won the world title in Rome last September. It came bizarrely in the consolation B final after she had failed to make the top eight in the heats.

"The 200 metres is my main event and it will remain that way. I'll train harder than ever before," Van Almsick said.

Apparently serenely oblivious to pressure, Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi sounded an impressive challenge to her rivals outside Europe as she concentrated her powers on the 200 backstroke and

400 individual medley and abdicated her 100 backstroke and 200 butterfly crowns. She will contest the same two events in Atlanta.

Olympic champion at just 14 at the 1988 Seoul Games, Egerszegi won three Olympic golds in 1992 but lost her world 100 and 200 backstroke titles to the Chinese last year.

On Sunday, she threatened her own world 200 backstroke record and won in a time only she herself has ever matched, importantly faster

than the effort with which China's He Chong took the Hungarian's world crown.

Alexander Popov looks as capable as anyone of making Atlanta 1996 as golden as Barcelona 1992.

Popov repeated his four-gold haul of the 1993 European Championships and completed the 50 and 100 freestyle double he similarly achieved at the 1992 Olympics and 1994 World Championships.

Champions of the 22nd European Swimming Championships, Aug. 17-27, 1995 (all distance in metres):

Men

Swimming

50 freestyle — Alexander Popov, Russia, 22.25 seconds.
100 freestyle — Alexander Popov, Russia, 49.10.
200 freestyle — Jani Sievinen, Finland, 1:48.98.
400 freestyle — Steffen Zesner, Germany, 3:50.35.
1,500 freestyle — Joerg Hoffmann, Germany, 15:11.25.
100 breaststroke — Frederik Deburghgraeve, Belgium, 1:01.12.
200 breaststroke — Andrei Korneev, Russia, 2:12.62.
300 breaststroke — Vladimir Selkov, Russia, 55.48.
200 backstroke — Vladimir Selkov, Russia, 1:58.48.
100 butterfly — Denis Pankratov, Russia, 52.32 (world record, old record 52.84 by Pablo Morales, U.S., 1986).
200 butterfly — Denis Pankratov, Russia, 1:56.34.
200 individual medley — Jani Sievinen, Finland, 1:58.61.
400 individual medley — Jani Sievinen, Finland, 4:14.75.
400 freestyle relay — Russia (Vladimir Fredkin, Roman Schegolev, Roman Yegorov and Alexander Popov) 3:18.84.
400 medley relay — Russia (Vladimir Selkov, Andrei Korneev, Denis Pankratov and Alexander Popov) 3:38.11.
800 freestyle relay — Germany (Christian Keller, Oliver Lampe, Torsten Spanneberg and Steffen Zesner), 7:18.22.
5-kilometre — Alexei Akatiev, Russia, 55:30.00.
25-kilometre — Christof Wandratsch 5 hours, 11 minutes, 36.30.

Diving

1-metre — Edwin Jongejans, Netherlands, 420.75 points.
3-metre — Dmitri Sautin, Russia, 670.38 points.
10-metre — Vladimir Timoshin, Russia, 673.83 points.

Water polo

Italy

Women

50 freestyle — Linda Olsson, Sweden, 25.76.
100 freestyle — Franz Van Almsick, Germany, 55.34.
200 freestyle — Kerstin Kielgass, Germany, 2:00.56.
400 freestyle — Franz Van Almsick, Germany, 4:04.37.
800 freestyle — Julia Jung, Germany, 8:36.08.
100 backstroke — Mette Jacobsen, Denmark, 1:02.46.
200 backstroke — Kristina Egerszegi, Hungary, 2:07.24.
100 butterfly — Mette Jacobsen, Denmark, 1:00.64.
200 butterfly — Michelle Smith, Ireland, 2:11.50.
100 breaststroke — Brigitte Becue, Belgium, 1:09.30.
200 breaststroke — Brigitte Becue, Belgium, 2:27.66.
200 individual medley — Michelle Smith, Ireland, 2:15.27.
400 individual medley — Kristina Egerszegi, Hungary, 4:40.55.
400 freestyle relay — Germany (Franzi Van Almsick, Simone Ossyng, Kerstin Kielgass and Daniela Hunger) 3:43.22.
400 medley relay — Germany (Cathleen Rund, Jana Doerries, Julia Votawitsch and Franz Van Almsick) 4:09.97.
800-metre relay — Germany (Dagmar Hase, Julia Jung, Kirsten Kielgass and Franz Van Almsick), 8:06.11.
5-kilometre — Rita Kovacs, Hungary, 1:00:39.3.
25-kilometre — Peggy Buechse, Germany, 5:32:36.4.

Synchronized swimming

Solo — Olga Sedakova, Russia, 98.160 points.
Duet — Russia (Yelena Azarova and Maria Kiselova) 98.880 points.
Team — Russia (Olga Sedakova, Maria Kiselova, Gana Maximova, Iolfa Pankratova, Yelena Azarova, Olga Novokhova, Olga Brouninskina and Yelena Antonova), 98.406 points.

Diving

1-metre — Vera Ilyina, Russia, 275.25.
3-metre — Vera Ilyina, Russia, 523.23 points.
10-metre — Ute Wetzig, Germany, 444.24.

Water polo

Italy

Maple rides Awad to record Arlington Million win

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois (AP) — Eddie Maple supplied the patience and Awad delivered the kick, driving hard from off the pace to win the Arlington Million in record time.

Awad, the fourth choice at nearly 6-1 Sunday, pulled away for a 2 1/4-length victory over favoured Sandpit. He completed the 1 1/4-mile turf race in 1:58 3/5, shaving one-fifth of a second off the course mark set in 1982 by Ferrault.

Having won the secretariat stakes for 3-year-olds in 1993, Awad became the first horse to win both Grade I events at Arlington International Racecourse.

Awad earned the ownership group from Maryland's Rye Hill Farm \$600,000, boosting his 1995 earnings to more than \$1 million and his lifetime mark to about \$1.8 million. He paid \$13.80, \$4.80 and \$4.20.

Maple has been riding Awad all year. What makes him such an effective jockey for the horse?

"Three words: patience, patience, patience," trainer David Donk said. "A lot of people could ride this horse and get a little bit too itchy and move too soon. There's no instructions to Eddie. The only thing I say to him is if we get there, we get there and if we don't, we don't."

Awad got there after spending most of Sunday near the back of the 11-horse field. A mile into the race, he was still in eighth place. Staying on the outside around the turn, he blew past the field at the top of the stretch.

"I didn't ask him to run until the eighth pole," Maple said. "When I reached and he hit another gear. He just kind of went 'wooooo' and I said, 'here we go.'"

Said Chris Everett, one of Awad's owners: "Like driving a Mercedes Benz."

Is Awad the Mercedes of turf horses? Despite Sandpit's loss, jockey Corey Nakatani feels his mount is the class of the field.

"I couldn't get him outside, and I couldn't let him run," Nakatani said. "I just hope I didn't cost him the eclipse award for turf horses."

Trapped behind early leaders Manilman and Kiri's Clown and then squeezed by the vid, Sandpit finally broke through at the eighth pole.

"But by then it was too late," Nakatani said. "It's my fault he didn't win this race because I didn't find him room to run. But I know who the better horse is."

Those closest to Awad, however, feel differently. "I would consider Sandpit going into today the best grass horse in the country and maybe still is," Donk said.

"But Awad won the Pan American. He won the Manhattan. A pretty important race. And then the race today. So he's a pretty good horse now, I guess."

World University Games Americans catch Japan in gold medals race

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — American swimmers won three races and broke two records Monday, bringing their nation even with Japan in the overall World University Games gold medal race.

But South Korea and Bulgaria were the day's biggest winners with four golds each.

Rhythmic gymnastics world champion Maria Petrova of Bulgaria, already the multiple events gold medalist here, added golds in the ribbon, clubs, ball and rope events with perfect 10s in all but the rope, where she scored 9.975. Teammate Diana Popova won four silver medals.

The Koreans won both the men's and women's team events in judo, and added golds in swimming and gymnastics.

Japan was held to a single swimming gold, leaving it tied with the United States at 15 gold medals each. But Japan still led 43 to 42 in total medals.

South Korea had eight golds, Russia seven, and China and Bulgaria five each.

Mexico won its first gold, in men's three-metre springboard diving, and Germany took gold in the women's one-metre competition.

China, Hungary and Belarus each gained two golds Monday in gymnastics.

For Belarus, Vitali Scherbo, who won six golds at the 1992 Olympics but has been bothered by injuries recently, had to settle for one, in the vault, and two silvers.

Croatia had one gymnastics gold.

For the American swimmers, Tobie Smith slashed 21 seconds off the games record in the women's 1,500-metre freestyle, winning in 16 mi-

nutes, 20.58 seconds. Teammate Julie Mills was second in 16:34.01 and Japan's Tamako Kihara, the 800-metre winner, was third in 16:40.75.

The Americans broke another games record in the women's 4x100-metre medley relay, winning in 4:10.49. Japan was second in 4:11.55 and China third in 4:14.47. The old mark was 4:11.24, set by Americans in 1985.

Tom Wilkens took the lead from Japan's Jo Yoshimi on the third length — the breaststroke portion — and won the men's 200 individual medley in 2:02.96, with Yoshimi second in 2:03.40.

Jason Lancaster of Stanford, the 100 butterfly gold medalist, was third in 2:03.64 and — less than an hour later — took another bronze in the 200-metre backstroke.

South Korea's Ji Sang-Joon won the backstroke in 2:01.19, with Japan's Ryuji Horii second in 2:01.32 and Lancaster third in 2:01.96.

Japan's Fumie Kurotori, already the gold medalist at 400 metres, won the women's 200-metre individual medley in 2:17.00. Lenka Manhalova of the Czech Republic was second in 2:17.20 and Slovakia's Martina Moravcova, the 100 freestyle winner, was third in 2:17.36.

After 29 swimming events, the Americans have 14 gold medals and Japan has six. Swimming concludes with five races on Tuesday.

The men's gymnastics winners included Russia's Evgenii Chabaev, already the men's all-around gold medalist, in the floor exercises.

Others were Hungary's Zoltan Supola on the pommel horse, Aleksei Dem-

janov of Croatia on the rings, South Korea's Jung Jin-Soo on the parallel bars and China's Dong Zhong on the horizontal bars.

Women gold medal gymnasts were Belarus' Olga Iourkina in the floor exercises, China's Ding Yan on the uneven bars, Hungary's Eszter Kovacs in the vault and Russia's Oxana Sivovol on the beam.

Russia won the men's Sabre fencing when Stanislav Pozdniakov edged Ukraine's Vadim Gutsayt 15-14 in the gold medal match.

South Korea's team judo golds eroded Japan's dominance in its native sport. Japan had won eight of the 16 individual judo golds, while South Korea had four.

The Koreans beat France in the women's team final and Russia in the men's.

Mexico's Fernando Platas won the men's three-metre springboard diving with 398.31 points in the final to 404.40 for Kevin McMahon of the United States and 374.04 for Zhao Xin of China.

"The level of competition was very high, so I'm very happy with the good result," Platas said.

University Games-brief

★ Winners at the World University Games have made admiring comments about the artistry in the design of the medals.

The gold, silver or bronze portions cover about half the front of the black lacquer medal, which is in the shape of an ancient Japanese ornament. The shape roughly resembles a comma, or a map of Kyushu, the southern Japan island where the games are being held, and the medal is strung from local silk.

The metal portion resembles the right half of the flaming "U" used as the University Games symbol.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA JIM CARREY & AMY YAZBK THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA Nabila Obeid & Yousef Sha'aban...in Huda and H.E. the Minister (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" 3 NINJAS Shows: 12:30, 3:30 Adel Imam in Bakhit and Adileh Shows: 6, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD "2" SPECIALIST Shows: 3:30, 5:30, 11	AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275 MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh *****	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571 Presents KABARET Abeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman
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Sports

JBF suspends 3 players Competitions to be rescheduled next week

**By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter**

AMMAN — The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Monday tried to bring back some order to the prevailing precarious basketball scene by deciding to suspend three players who had instigated last week's violence during the Ahli-Orthodox under-22 match.

Al Orthodox's Ihsan Msh and Al Ahli's Faisal Ensour were suspended for two months each for starting the brawl that led to the halting of the match. Al Ahli were also considered the winners of the match after Al Orthodox withdrew with Al Ahli leading 66-57 in the tenth minute of the second half.

Al Orthodox's Mustafa Al Ghoul who attacked a referee during the same match was suspended until the end of the year.

JBF Chairman Awwad Haddad said officials had reviewed the tape recording of the match in which it was evident that tension was high throughout the game which Al Orthodox had to win by over 24 points to keep their title hopes alive while Al Ahli needed to win by any score to secure the title.

Al Orthodox's Ghoul attacked the referee during the match moments later his teammate Msh kicked Al Ahli's Ensour. Things went out of control from that moment on and players from both teams got entangled in a fight which JBF officials, referees and Ahli club officials tried to stop. Fans from both sides left the stands and descended on Al Ahli's court which became a battlefield helped by the total absence of policemen.

While ongoing competitions like the women's and U-22 were put on hold last week because of Al Orthodox's decision to suspend all basketball activities and pull out of all JBF events, the federation gave Al Orthodox another chance to reconsider their drastic decision by calling on all parties to attend a meeting to reschedule postponed matches.

"We have asked officials of participating teams to attend next Monday's meeting. Hopefully all will cooperate for the benefit of the game in the Kingdom. Otherwise appropriate measures will be taken," Haddad Monday told the Jordan Times.

If Al Orthodox fail to attend the meeting, their decision will have a very negative impact as 1995 JBF regulations stipulate that players of any team withdrawing from competitions will automatically be free to join any other club.

Not only basketball, but swimming events were also marred by unsportsmanlike incidents during the past week. Events of the Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) were put on hold after referees announced they were pulling out until the Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) takes the decision to bar Al Orthodox's swimmer Osama Al Halman who had attacked a referee earlier in the week.

So far, the JSF has not taken any decision regarding the swimmer whose club insisted that he continue his participation in the week-long event. Al Orthodox were in the overall lead in the five-club event which has witnessed the toughest competition in years with 12 national records broken.



Czech Jan Zelezny through the javelin to a season's best (AFP photo)

Edwards leaps to another record; Zelezny hurls a season's best

LONDON (AP) — Jonathan Edwards produced another 18.00 metre triple jump and Jan Zelezny hurled the javelin a season's best 92.12 Sunday as the field event world record holders eclipsed the running stars at an IAAF invitational meet at Crystal Palace.

World 110m hurdles champion Allen Johnson gained a victory over world record holder Colin Jackson but Canada's 100 metre titlist Donovan Bailey again was beaten, placing third behind Jon Drummond and Linford Christie, who tied for first place in 10.11 seconds.

The only athlete to legally leap 18.00 metres, Edwards did it again before his British fans to easily beat the athletes he left trailing when he won the world title in Göteborg.

He left his best leap until last and his effort was measured at exactly 18.00 metres, well ahead of second place Yocelis Quesada of Cuba, who had 17.26 and World Championships bronze medalist Jerome Romain, who leaped 17.23.

"This was probably my best performance of the year, in a sense, because I really am very, very tired," said Edwards, who twice broke the world record with back-to-back jumps in Göteborg and took the mark to 18.29.

"I've got Berlin (Sept. 1) and Rieti (Sept. 5) to come and then I'll probably take a holiday."

Zelezny, another world record holder, also was in a class of his own in the javelin, leading from the second round with a throw of 90.62. The Czech republic thrower also came up with 91.88 and 92.12, easily the longest of the season although well short of his world mark of 95.66 set at Sheffield, England, two years ago.

Tony Jarrett, silver medalist behind Johnson at the worlds, got the best start in the 110 hurdles but the world titlist pulled level and was ahead at the next to last hurdle. By the line, the American was a half metre ahead in 13.05, Jarrett had 13.14 Jackson was third in 13.20.

In the 100 metres, Drummond had the best start of the three big rivals.

Ginola's first goal inspires Newcastle to top

SHEFFIELD (R) — French international David Ginola scored his first goal in English soccer on Sunday as Newcastle United beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 away to go to the top of the Premier League.

Ginola's shot from the left of the box and in at the far post out of reach of diving goalkeeper Kevin Pressman put his new club one up in the 33rd minute.

England veteran Peter Beardsley, voted man of the match, scored his second goal of the season to make it 2-0 after 75 minutes with a shot from a very tight angle on the left that went over Pressman and in off the far post.

Newcastle overtook Leeds United at the top of the table. Both sides are the only ones in the league on maximum points, nine, after three matches with Newcastle ahead on goal difference.

Newcastle's deadly finishing was the difference between the two sides.

Belgium captain Marc Degryse made his debut for the home team after his 1.5 million pound (\$2.32 million) move from Anderlecht but faded after a bright start. He replaced former England star Chris Waddle who was sidelined because of a foot injury.

Wednesday came closest to scoring in the opening 45 minutes when Mark Kennedy made a late run into the Newcastle box to meet a marvellous cross from Degryse with his head, but keeper Shaka Hislop leapt to tip the ball over the bar.

Schumacher's driving again under spotlight



Reigning Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher from Germany in his Benetton-Renault (left) who started from 16th position of the grid, overtakes other drivers during the Belgian Grand Prix (AFP photo)

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Michael Schumacher's driving will be under intense scrutiny for the remainder of the Formula One season following the one-race suspended ban he was handed on Sunday.

World champion Schumacher's ban was confirmed by race stewards several hours after his accomplished victory for Benetton in the Belgian Grand Prix.

The ban will not come into effect unless he commits further driving offences at any of the next four races.

Schumacher had been harshly criticised by the Williams team and their leading driver Damon Hill for his irregular, defensive driving.

The Williams team lodged a protest which was upheld by the race stewards.

Benetton immediately lodged an appeal, setting up another Paris hearing of the International Motoring Federation, the sport's governing body, to decide the fate of their brilliant driver.

Williams and Hill, whose rivalry with Schumacher has led to some acrimonious exchanges in the past year, claimed that the German had contravened the drivers' code of conduct.

They alleged that he had weaved on the straights and deliberately hindered attempts by Hill to overtake him when it was clear that Hill was driving faster in his car on rain tyres in the wet than Schumacher was on slicks.

The stewards agreed and in the report of their decision stated that Schumacher had been guilty of 'manoeuvres liable to hinder other drivers

defending his lead, even if it went to the extreme of hanging wheels, providing it was done at low speeds.

He said he was used to it from his long experience in karting and suggested Hill should try it.

Hill snapped back that they were competing at F1 level not in karts.

Schumacher now faces a challenge to clear his name before the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on September 10 when he is certain to receive a warm reception because he is leaving Benetton to join Ferrari next year.

Stoichkov and Weah score in Italian debuts

ROME (R) — Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov and Liberia's George Weah both scored on their Serie A debuts for Parma and AC Milan respectively as Italy's first division championship kicked off on Sunday.

Stoichkov, signed from Barcelona in the close season, struck with a superb 76th minute free kick in his side's disappointing 1-1 draw at Atalanta, for whom Christian Vieri scored a last minute equaliser.

Ex-Paris St. Germain striker Weah took just six minutes to set Milan on their way to a 2-1 win at Padova although last season's beaten European Cup finalists needed a rare goal from veteran sweeper Franco Baresi to claim all three points.

The 35-year-old regained the initiative for Milan in the 44th minute after Nicola Amoruso had levelled the score against the run of play. It was Baresi's 12th goal in 415 league appearances.

Midfielder Christian Karembeu, who moved from French champions Nantes to Sampdoria, was also on target in his first appearance for his new club, athletically heading a 22nd minute opener in the night match, with Roma.

But the visitors, outsiders in this year's title race, equalised within two minutes through former Sampdoria man Marco Branca before playing out a 1-1 draw.

As Parma and Milan struggled to impress, champions Juventus made an ominously impressive start with a 4-1 thrashing of Cremonese.

Fabrizio Ravanello, whose goals helped give the Turin side their first title in nine years last season, settled a one-sided affair with two goals in the space of five minutes midway through the second half.

Earlier Vladimir Jugovic, signed from Sampdoria in the summer, fired Juventus in front with a 17th minute solo effort only for Riccardo Maspero to equalise with a 47th minute free kick — Cremonese's only shot on target in the match.

Frenchman Didier Deschamps scored Juve's fourth to put their side in front.

Baggio swung a free kick deep into the heart of the penalty area where Weah outjumped American defender Alexi Lalas before surprising goalkeeper Adriano Panatta with a powerful backheader.

The visitors kept a firm grip on the match until the 34th minute when Amoroso surprised Sebastiano Rossi with a first-time shot that curled away from his despairing dive into the far corner.

Despite an inspired Weah, it took Baresi's surprise effort to settle the encounter.

Serie A's longest serving player took his chance with all the prowess of a natural finisher, playing a one-two with Weah and chesting the ball down before side-footing past Bonaiti.

The fiery Stoichkov was brought to Parma to instill his new side with the killer instinct so often missing last season.

But, apart from the Bulgarian's superb second half goal, when he curled a trademark free kick over the Atlanta defensive wall into the net, the UEFA Cup holders still displayed all their old failings, including a failure to close out matches.

Veteran coach Giovanni Trapattoni, now coaching Cagliari after a disastrous season with Bayern Munich, had his return to Serie A spoiled by another unhappy encounter with German soccer, this time in the form of striker Oliver Bierhoff who struck Udinese's second-half winner against the Sardinians.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers Erric Rhett (front) is tackled by Miami Dolphins Chuck Klingbeil the Citrus Bowl in Orlando (AFP photo)

Abu Shakra introduce QUASAR

Director General of Abu Shakra Trading Establishment Rami Abu Shakra held a press conference to announce launching the new Quasar perfume from J. Del Pozo in the Jordanian market.

The press conference was attended by deputy chairman of the board of directors Reed Abu Shakra, several journalists and prominent personalities.

Mr. Abu Shakra said the new perfume signals imagination and charm. He said since very old times our galaxy was called a mysterious name, that is Quasar, which signifies the continued interest of human beings in the globe.

Mr. Abu Shakra said the fragrance is strong and refreshing, with the influence of refreshing air on the body. The fragrance, he added, is extracted from lavender and sage.

He continued that the bottle takes the form of a wheel, describing it as a magical mixture of metal and glass.

Mr. Abu Shakra said the new fragrance is available at Abu Shakra stores and all classy perfume shops and drug stores around the Kingdom.

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North-South vulnerable. North deals.	30	Pass	3NT	Pass
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WEST 4862 Q105 Q453 4AK983	EAST 4J1053 QK54 QJ972 410	Pass	Pass	Pass
SOUTH 4AK87 Q45 Q1064 QJ7	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1 2 3 4
Pass Pass 2 4
Pass Pass 2 4

West led a club and declarer captured East's ten with the jack. A heart and another put East on lead. After some thought East shifted to a spade, and declarer had nine tricks. Obviously, a diamond return would have resulted in a four-trick defeat. Could East have known? Not at trick three, but certainly at trick four East was in too much of a hurry to win the king of hearts. Obviously, there was no way declarer could come to nine tricks without the heart suit, so East should have held up the king of hearts. On the next heart trick, West will be able to signal which suit to lead. If West demands a low spade, East shifts to diamonds; if the shift is a low diamond, East returns a spade. As the cards lie, West discards the two spades on the third heart. A low diamond to the ace falls the king, and the defenders cash four clubs and two more diamonds for a handsome profit.

Bomb defused in Istanbul after explosions kill two Jordanians among dead and injured

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Turkish police defused a bomb found near the parking lot of an Istanbul shopping centre on Monday after a series of bomb explosions killed two people and injured about 40, Anatolian news agency said. A Jordanian woman, Abir Sufian, 25, was among the killed.

The time-bomb near the Atakoy Galleria Centre, the sixth bomb planted in Istanbul in the past 18 hours, was set to go off at noon (0900 GMT), the agency reported.

Police said two people were killed and more than 30 were injured on Sunday evening when two bombs exploded shortly after nine p.m. (1800 GMT) in rubbish bins on a busy pedestrian walkway in central Istanbul.

Another bomb planted in the cooling cabinet of a restaurant in the tourist district of Aksaray injured eight people, including six Ukrainians, police said.

A fourth explosion damaged an office of the Democratic Left Party in the city's Beykoz area and a further blast early on Monday ripped apart a wire fence surrounding a military school.

Anatolian said the last two bombs were not of the same make as the three on tourist areas.

The private Kanal D television station said the Islamic Great Eastern Raiders-Front (IBDA-C) group had claimed responsibility for one of the blasts.

IBDA-C has carried out dozens of bomb attacks on bars, night clubs and churches in Istanbul in recent years.

The bombs planted in garbage bins killed the Jordanian woman and a Turkish man, Ferhat Kaya, as they were walking in the crowded street in the Beyoglu district, a popular draw for tourists.

Thirty-two strollers, including an American, an Austrian, two Jordanians and an Italian, were injured, Istanbul police spokesman Tayfan Bora said.

Authorities released only some of the identities. Anna Rita Azzariello, 30, of Palermo, Sicily, told the Associated Press from her hospital bed that she was walking in the district, where she lives, when she was rocked by a blast. She was operated on for an arm injury.

An anonymous caller to newspapers claimed responsibility in the name of Islamic Kurdistan Union Party, which is linked to the Kurdish guerrillas who have been waging war against the state since 1984 for autonomy in southeastern Turkey.

At about the same time Sunday night, around 9:10 p.m., a bomb exploded in a restaurant in Aksaray district, injuring six Ukrainians and two Turks, Mr. Bora said. First reports had said the blast was caused by a gas leak.

News reports said police were looking for three people, including a woman, for involvement in the Beyoglu bombings.

Unlike the summer of 1994 when seven bombs between March and August killed four foreign tourists, there had been no attacks this year.

Hotels along the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts were fully booked as tourists flocked to the relatively inexpensive resorts in package

tours. The area also enjoys boating services that draw yachts and cruisers on trips touring nearby Greek islands.

The local media boasted the surge in tourism, reporting that hotels were overbooked and congratulating Turkey on keeping terror at bay.

In July, Tourism Minister Irfan Gurbunar told travel agents and hotel officials "Turkey didn't surrender to terror."

Defining the country as one of the "most secure in the world" he promised this year's season would be safe.

The bombs of the summer of 1994 also had no claim of responsibility, but police suspected the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which had been threatened to attack tourist sites.

The PKK's declared purpose is to undermine the Turkish economy in its 11-year fight for an independent Kurdistan in southeastern Turkey.

Five of last year's attacks were in Istanbul, mostly by time-bombs left in trash-cans outside tourist-frequented restaurants and cafes and in the crowded, ancient covered bazaar.

Between March and April alone, two people were killed and 20 tourists wounded. In August, a Romanian national died and two foreign tourists were wounded by a time-bomb explosion.

The attacks also moved south in the summer, with timebombs killing a British woman and injuring at least 12 tourists in two separate attacks in the Aegean resort towns of Marmaris and Fethiye.



VICTIMS OF SHELLING: Civilians help out in the emergency situation by carrying one of wounded victims of an artillery attack on a central market place on Wednesday in Sarajevo. The attacks killed at least 37 people and wounded 88 (see story on page one) (AFP photo)

Algerian is still a suspect in Paris blast

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Sweden's public prosecutor on Monday denied reports that an Algerian suspect was accused of the Paris killing of a Muslim leader but said the case against him for a July 25 train bombing was still open.

"No, he has not been served with suspicion of the murder on July 11th... he is still a suspect in the Paris bombing," prosecutor Jan Danielsson told Reuters.

Swedish police arrested the man, named as Abdul Karim Deneche by French authorities seeking his extradition, in a Stockholm suburb a week ago as a suspect in the Paris bombing but later cited evidence that he was in Sweden on the day of the blast.

"After questioning, the suspicions against him were weakened so much that he could no longer be held in custody but the investigation is not closed," Mr. Danielsson said.

Deneche is now held by security police under a special anti-terrorist law.

"No, he has not been told he is suspected of the murder and French police have not asked for him to be interrogated on the issue," Mr. Danielsson said.

Swedish radio quoted Deneche's lawyer Bengt Nilsson as saying his client was officially suspected of the murder of Abdul Baki Sahraoui.

But Mr. Danielsson said there had been "a misunderstanding" and that he had not discussed the Sahraoui killing with Mr. Nilsson. The lawyer was unavailable for comment on Monday morning.

Interviewed Monday by AFP, the editors of the radio station said they had misinterpreted the lawyer's comments.

Sahraoui, a founding member of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) who had criticised some of the bloodiest attacks in that country, was shot and killed in his Paris mosque by two unidentified men.

French press reports say investigators believe his killing was carried out by the same people for the July 25 bombing in a Paris underground train which killed seven people and injured 86 and a second bombing near the Arc de Triomphe which wounded 17.

Deneche was arrested on Aug. 21 by Swedish police at the request of the French magistrate investigating the July 25 bombing.

Mr. Danielsson said that Swedish police were not investigating the murder of Sahraoui and had only been asked for help by French police on the bombing investigation.

Swedish Justice Minister Laila Freivalds announced Friday that authorities hope to deport Deneche "on suspicion of carrying out undesirable activities" in Sweden.

Meanwhile an Algerian said to have planned the Dec. 24 hijacking of a French airliner in Algiers has been identified as a suspect in last month's train bombing, a French newspaper said.

The report in the daily Le Monde was published after a near-disaster at the weekend when an unexploded bomb was found alongside a heavily travelled high-speed TGV railway line near Lyon, raising fears of a guerrilla escalation.

'Rome group' issues call for boycott of Algerian elections

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian opposition parties which want the military-backed government to negotiate with the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Monday urged a boycott of presidential elections due on Nov. 16.

A broad spectrum of Algerian opposition met in Rome in January of this year and developed a "national contract," a plan for ending the civil strife estimated to have left more than 30,000 dead since January 1992.

In a statement, the parties said they would not field a candidate in the first round of voting and urged Algerians not to take part in campaigning leading up to the vote.

The parties who met in Rome consider the elections serve only to reinforce the current military regime and prolong the country's conflict.

They confirmed their refusal to back these elections, which, they said, could "be a factor in aggravating the crisis and plunging the country further into deadlock and blood-letting."

The parties further consider the invitation to international authorities to supervise the poll is "an attempt to draw them into the Algerian crisis."

"Acceptance of the invitation by these authorities would be considered as complicity with the regime," they said.

Algeria has called on the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League to supervise the presidential election.

"The return to the electoral process calls for a national consensus achieved through a global political solution, able to... bring about the political, media, security and administrative conditions for the organisation of free and democratic elections," the opposition parties said.

Violence erupted in 1992 after Algerian authorities annulled elections which the subsequently outlawed FIS was poised to win.

The FIS signed the national contract, but no longer takes part in meetings with other signatory parties.

The "Rome group" of eight parties includes the former ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), the FIS and the Socialist Forces Front (SFF), three of the largest political movements in Algeria.

The boycott meant the authorities had failed to gather a wide consensus for the polls, which they insist will go ahead in November to try and reestablish normal political life.

The statement was issued after a meeting of the movement's representatives on Sunday in Algiers. Some of the member parties had already said they opposed the polls, but the statement was the first comment by the whole group.

The authorities have set Nov. 16 as the first leg of the presidential poll after saying a dialogue with the FIS had failed because of what it said the fundamentalist movement leaders "intransigence."

So far, 10 Algerian politicians have announced they plan to run for president, but the current head of state Liamine Zerroual has not yet

made known if he will also run.

The most serious candidate so far is former Prime Minister Redha Malek, leader of an anti-fundamentalist movement.

Five policemen and two Islamic militants were killed at the weekend in Algeria while two days earlier, three bombs meant to blow up a railway line were defused.

Four policemen died Sunday in an attack by an armed group on a police station at Ouzena near Tebessa in the far eastern part of the country, the daily Al Watan said.

The report had not been officially confirmed Monday morning.

Another policeman was killed in the Casbah, the old city of Algiers but two of his four attackers were chased and killed by the security forces, the daily L'Opinion reported.

In another incident, three bombs were defused on Sunday on the railway line from Algiers to Tizi Ouzou the regional capital of Kabylie.

The bombs had been planted "in the longest tunnel" along the line between the towns of Naciria and Tadmait, according to La Tribune daily.

The bombs were discovered shortly before a goods train and a passenger train were due to pass, the report said.

La Tribune said traffic had been halted so security forces could make a thorough search of the rail network.

A few days ago, a gas container primed to explode was defused on the Algiers-to-Oran railway line in the volatile Ohel region west of the capital.

COLUMN

Rushdie attends Salzburg Festival

VIENNA (R) — British author Salman Rushdie was a surprise guest at the Salzburg Festival Sunday, attending the festival's performance of the opera Lulu at the invitation of Austria's Minister for Science Rudolf Scholten. Mr. Rushdie's has lived and travelled in secrecy since 1989, when Iran condemned him to death for his novel The Satanic Verses. Mr. Rushdie and Mr. Scholten also attended a birthday party Sunday for an Austrian artist. It was Mr. Rushdie's fourth visit to Austria since 1989.

Briton accused of promoting child sex

OLONGAPO, Philippines (R) — A 48-year-old British travel agent accused of promoting child prostitution in the Philippines denied the charge Monday saying all he was interested in was a "safe family holiday."

Michael Clarke, 48, from Eastbourne in the county of Sussex, pleaded not guilty at a preliminary hearing in a court in the town of Olongapo, north of Manila. He is charged with trying to "promote, facilitate child prostitution by advertising sex tours," according to court documents. The law under which he was charged carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison.

Mr. Clarke, who appeared in the ramshackle court in a pin-stripe suit with a bow tie and red pocket handkerchief, told Judge Leopoldo Calderon he could not afford either a lawyer or to put up bail. The judge said he would appoint a lawyer for Mr. Clarke and would study an application for Mr. Clarke's 40,000 peso (\$1,540) bail to be halved.

Mr. Clarke, who has been in detention since June, was escorted into court by two immigration bureau officials. Asked by reporters before the hearing if he was guilty, Mr. Clarke replied, "Not guilty, sir 100 per cent. It was a complete setup. Hook, line and sinker, it was a set-up."

Mr. Clarke said he was a businessman and had only been interested in "a safe family holiday here." "Do I look like a pervert?" he asked.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

18 killed, 136 injured in Somalia battles

MOGADISHU (R) — The worst fighting in months in the Somali capital Mogadishu between rival militias killed 18 people and wounded more than 130, hospital officials and witnesses said on Monday. After three days the fighting, between militiamen loyal to leaders Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammed, eased slightly on Monday. Officials at the Benadir and Digfer hospitals in General Aided's stronghold of south Mogadishu said eight people had died and 76 were admitted with wounds from the street battles. Officials at hospitals in north Mogadishu, controlled by Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces, said 10 people were killed and some 60 were treated for wounds. The casualties were both civilians and fighters. Families fled the districts of Bernuda and Hamarweyne on Monday amid fears among civilians that a military showdown between the arch-enemies had started. Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aided blamed each other's forces for starting the shooting. Mr. Ali Mahdi's militiamen were told to prepare for war while their opponents said they were determined to defend themselves. Tension has mounted since Gen. Aided supporters elected him president of Somalia in June. His rivals denounced the move and urged the international community not to recognise his government.

'Saddam's son under house arrest'

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein has put his eldest son, Uday, under house arrest in a bid to blame him for Iraq's deterioration, newspapers reported here Monday. President Saddam is also hoping the step will restore some of his credibility as a leader intent on uprooting corruption, the Arab Times and its sister newspaper Al Siyasah reported, quoting Iraqi exiles in Jordan. The report could not immediately be confirmed. Iraqi opposition sources have said Uday's growing power and authority in Baghdad provoked the defection to Jordan of former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan. The Iraqi exiles also told the newspapers that the Iraqi leader was consulting with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz about possibly announcing semi-democratic reforms. This is to "show he is taking a second significant step after banding over the secrets of the mass destruction weapon programmes to the United Nations," an Iraqi exile quoted by the paper said.

Moscow denies new Iran nuclear deal

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's minister of atomic energy, Viktor Mikhailov, denied Monday that Russia was to furnish Iraq with nuclear reactors to equip a research centre suspected of nuclear weapons development. The Sunday Telegraph in London published a story saying that Moscow had agreed to supply two 400-megawatt reactors after an Iranian delegation visited Moscow. The reactors were reportedly destined for the Neka complex in Iran's remote northern region, which is understood by western intelligence to be part of Iran's research programme to develop its own atomic weapons. "There is no secret accord between Iran and our ministry or Russia in general," the minister said in a radio interview. He said all contacts between Iranian and Russian officials have to do with a contract to furnish Iran with a 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactor which is to start being installed at Bushehr in the south of the country at the end of the year. They have nothing to do with military uses, he said.

Rwanda's Hutu prime minister resigns

KIGALI (AFP) — Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, a Hutu, resigned on Monday slamming the Tutsi-led government in power since last year's civil war. Mr. Twagiramungu's resignation must be accepted by President Pasteur Bizimungu, but Information Minister Jean-Baptiste Nkuringoma told AFP the president "will definitely accept" it. The prime minister's resignation letter criticised the policies of the Tutsi-dominated government in place since the end of last year's civil war. Mr. Nkuringoma said. Mr. Twagiramungu's resignation follows that of his permanent secretary, Jean Damascene Ntakirutimana, also a Hutu, who quit in June and fled to Nairobi, leaving behind a resignation letter accusing the government, made up of Tutsis and moderate Hutus, of sliding into totalitarianism.

Talibans retake strategic position

KABUL (AFP) — Taliban movement fighters in a counter-attack pushed back infantry loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and seized control of a strategic southern town, official sources here said Monday.

"The Taliban recaptured Girisik Sunday afternoon," Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman, Dr. Abdullah said.

Dr. Abdullah, who uses only one name, said pro-Rabbani troops had regrouped at the village of Sanglan on the southern national highway 10 kilometres west of Girisik in Helmand province.

"We will hold the Taliban at Sanglan and from there prepare to retake Girisik," Dr. Abdullah said.

After several months of stalemate, pro-Rabbani forces broke the Taliban's defence at the Nimroz province district centre of Dilaram last Wednesday and pushed the religious students' militia 120 kilometres back to Girisik.

According to travellers arriving in Kabul from Kandahar, the Taliban captured at least 200 pro-Rabbani troops in the Girisik fighting.

The fighting in Helmand has not yet affected civilian traffic to and from Kandahar.

Analysts said a successful defence of Girisik is vital to the Taliban, because the town guards access to the religious movement's headquarters at Kandahar some 120 kilometres further east.

Pro-Rabbani bombers have attacked Girisik in support of the infantry offensive while the western provincial capital Herat came under air attack last Saturday, sources said.

Defence Ministry officials alleged that Herat was bombed by jets belonging to ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostom whose Uzbek militia staged an abortive coup against Mr. Rabbani in January this year.

Fighting also continued around the strategic district centre of Sarobi, 70 kilometres east of Kabul.

Dr. Abdullah claimed that pro-Rabbani troops had captured the Zardad military base last Monday from their Hezb-e-Islami faction rivals, led by former Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The base is named after a well-known Hezb commander, Zardad Fariadi.

Egypt war of Jorda

Source says Amman

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BRIS

Wave-powered generator succumbs to storm

INVERNESS, Scotland (R) — Osprey I, said to be the first commercial wave-powered electricity generator, is slowly sinking into the Atlantic off Scotland under a pounding from a late summer storm, its builders said. They said they would start work on a second generator and would probably put it into the same site. The controversial and experimental generator, put into place earlier this month amid big publicity, was damaged by gentle summer swells within weeks. Its first real summer storm knocked it out of action, witnesses said. Applied Research and Technology Ltd., the Scottish company that designed the 19.8-metre (65-foot) high power station, had hoped it would start generating electricity by the autumn.

Allan Thomson, managing director of the Inverness-based company, said it was not yet clear what had damaged the station's ballast tanks. "Obviously this is a disappointment for us, but it certainly isn't the end of the project," he said in a statement. "It is at times like this that you realise that your insurance premiums were well spent." Osprey stands for Ocean Swell Powered Renewable Energy Machine. Squat and yellow, the station weighs 8,000 tonnes and sports two crooked funnel-like tubes on top.

Train wipes out 87 sheep near Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — A suburban train piled into a flock of wayward sheep and killed 87 of them, police said. Police were still looking for the shepherd who let the flock of about 100 animals wander onto the rail line in the Pankow district of eastern Berlin. A suburban train with five passenger cars hit the flock about 9:20 p.m. Friday, killing 75 of the sheep outright and injuring 12. badly that police had to shoot them.

War of Fears of a

By Natasha Brikhari

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A war of fears is being waged in Jordan between the government and the opposition. The opposition is accusing the government of being a puppet of the United States and of being a tool of the West.

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